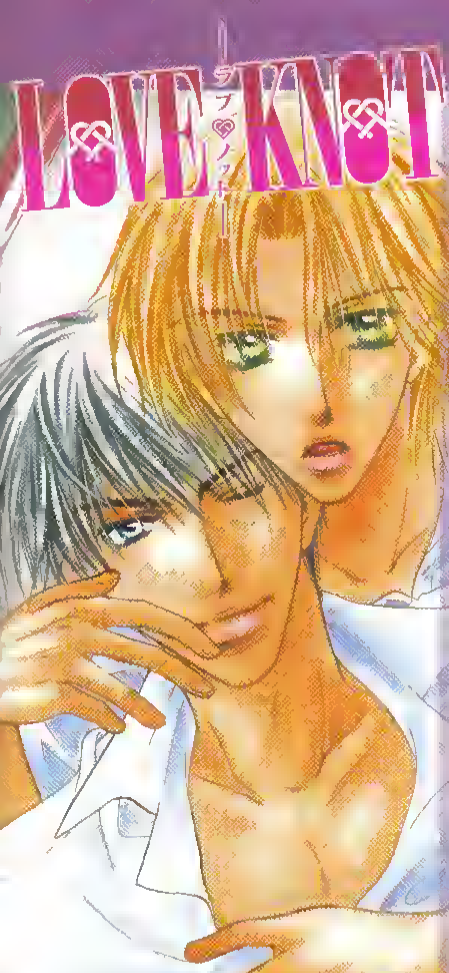
LOVE KNOT
ラブ・ノット
石丸博子
HIROKO ISHIMARU
PARENTAL
EXPLICIT CONTENT
ADVISORY
June
Yaoi
Manga



On his way home one peaceful night, Keigo Someha, detective-by-day/assassin-by-night, discovers a boy collapsed on the street. He takes the boy home, but soon finds out that he's taken in something troublesome.

For one thing, the boy, who introduces himself as Emiya Nozaki, asks to be allowed to stay in Keigo's house permanently. Emiya doesn't seem to know much about household chores or ordinary everyday stuff. He seems to be keeping a huge secret, and he seems to have a knack for finding missing people—something that is invaluable with Keigo's "official" work.

When Keigo hears a rumor that a subject of a top secret government project has escaped from a laboratory, he can't help but think that Emiya is that subject. If Emiya is being chased by government officials, will Keigo just stand by and let Emiya be re-captured? Or will he stick out his neck for someone who seems to become more and more precious to him day by day? Is the cold-hearted killer Keigo capable of caring for someone? Will the mysterious Emiya trust Keigo enough to open his heart and soul to him?

Read this manga and see how love can tie two very different people into a complicated LOVE KNOT.

MANGA / DRAMA / ROMANCE
US $12.95

M FOR MATURE AUDIENCES 18+

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NATIVE MANGA
READ RIGHT TO LEFT

June by TOKYOPOP
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石丸博子
HIROKO ISHIMARU
LOVE KNOT
—ラブ・ノット—
Jun

LOVE KNOT

—ラブ ノット—

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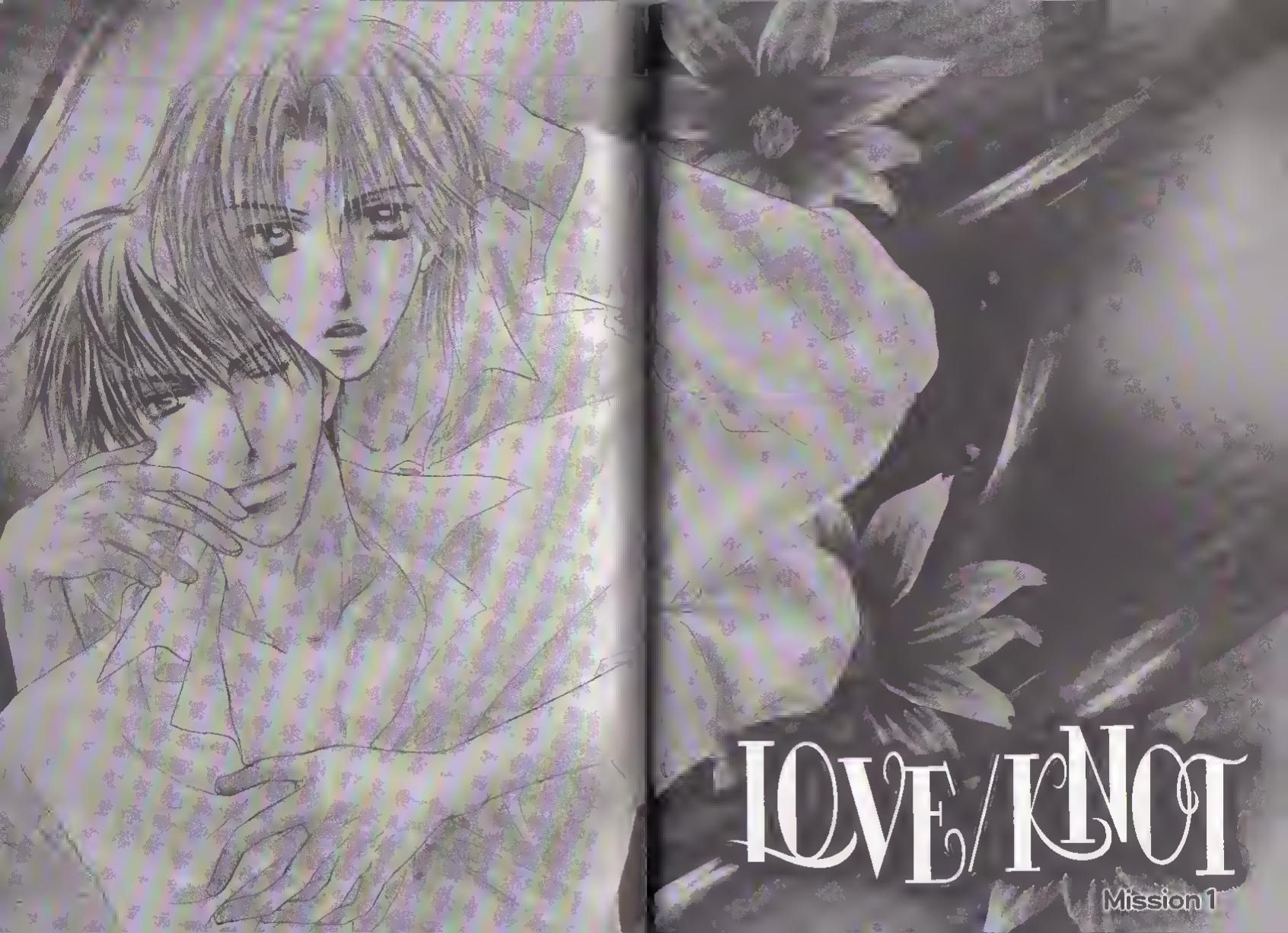
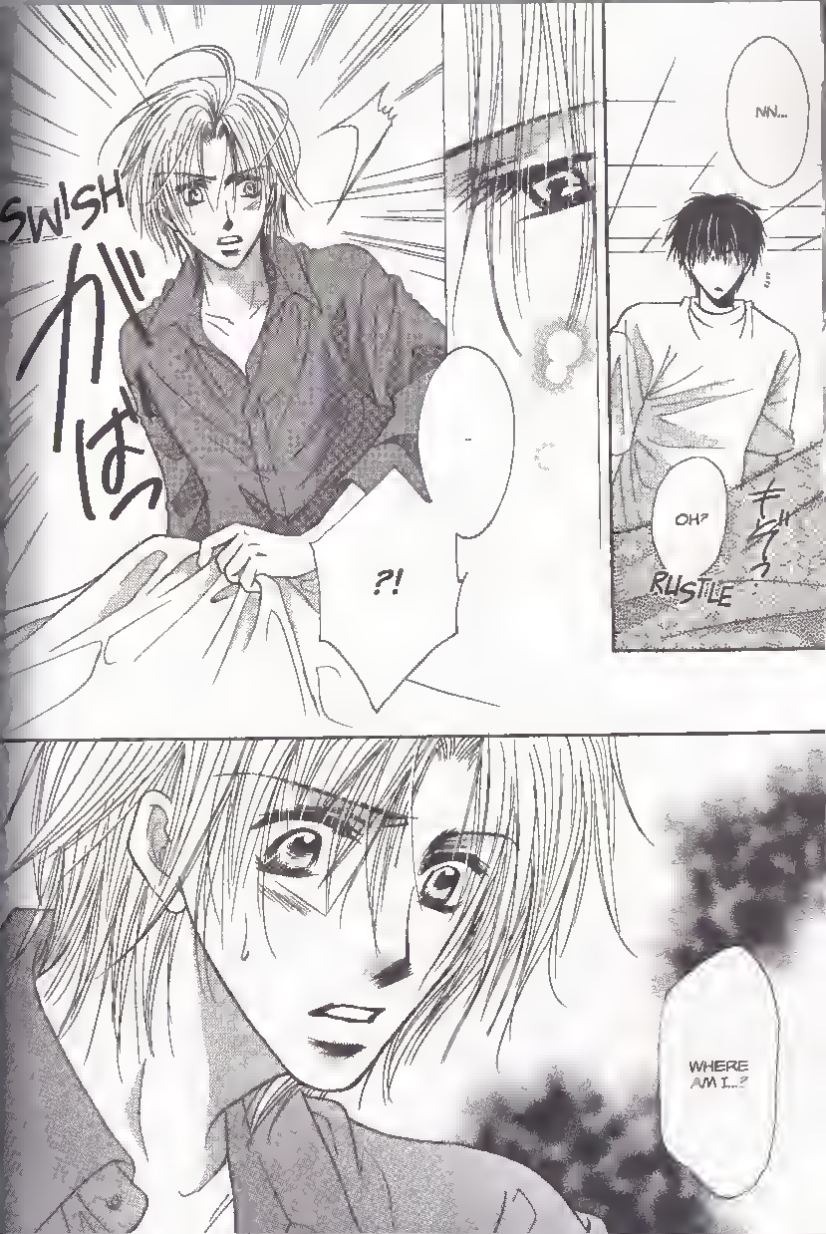
SLAP
LET THIS BE A LESSON TO YOU. GIVE UP ANY THOUGHTS OF TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM ME.
..ISN'T THAT RIGHT, EMIYA?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT BEST OF ALL...


LOVE/NOT
Mission 1

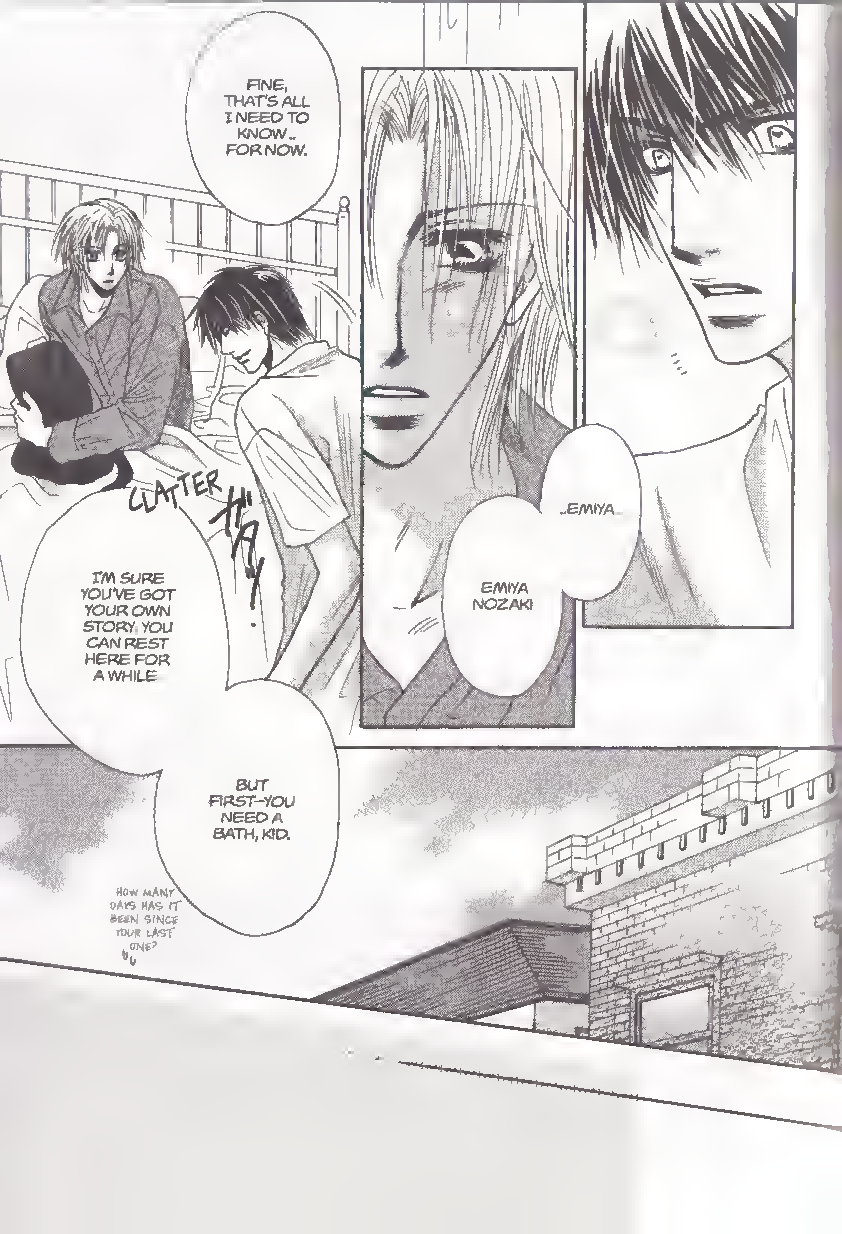
IF ONLY MY WORK WAS GOING ALONG JUST AS NICELY, THINGS WOULD BE PERFECT..
UGH.. ANOTHER ANNOYINGLY NICE DAY.
HM?
WHAT'S WITH THIS KID_?

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIS FACE AROUND HERE BEFORE.
...IT DOESN'T LOOK DYED... IT'S A BEAUTIFUL SHADE OF NATURAL BLONDE!
IF I HAD, I WOULD'VE REMEMBERED THIS HAIR OF HIS...


SWISH
ガバっ
?!
NN...
OH?
RUSTLE
WHERE AM I...?

HEY, NO NEED TO BE SO ALARMED I'M NOT GONNA HURT YOU.
LOOK SEE? I GIVE
HOW DO YOU FEEL? YOU WERE ASLEEP FOR A WHOLE DAY.
A WHOLE DAY..?
OH! THAT'S RIGHT! WHERE'S MY—?!
SNATCH!
ばっ
YOU MEAN THIS?
DON'T LOOK SO UPSET, I DIDN'T LOOK INSIDE.
REALLY?
YEAH, REALLY?

HIS APPEARANCE, THIS EXTREME WARINESS...
...THEY TELL ME HE'S NOT JUST YOUR AVERAGE, ORDINARY RUNAWAY.
...I DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN ANYTHING TO A COMPLETE STRANGER LIKE YOU.
WHERE'D YOU COME FROM ANYWAY?
LOOK, I FOUND YOU COLLAPSED OUTSIDE MY HOUSE. I DIDN'T HAVE TO HELP YOU, BUT I DID.
I THINK I'VE AT LEAST EARNED THE RIGHT TO KNOW YOUR NAME
I'M KEIGO SOMEHA, A PRIVATE DETECTIVE.


FINE, THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW... FOR NOW.
CLATTER
I'M SURE YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN STORY. YOU CAN REST HERE FOR A WHILE.
BUT FIRST—YOU NEED A BATH, KID.
HOW MANY DAYS HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOUR LAST ONE?
...EMIYA...
EMIYA NOZAKI

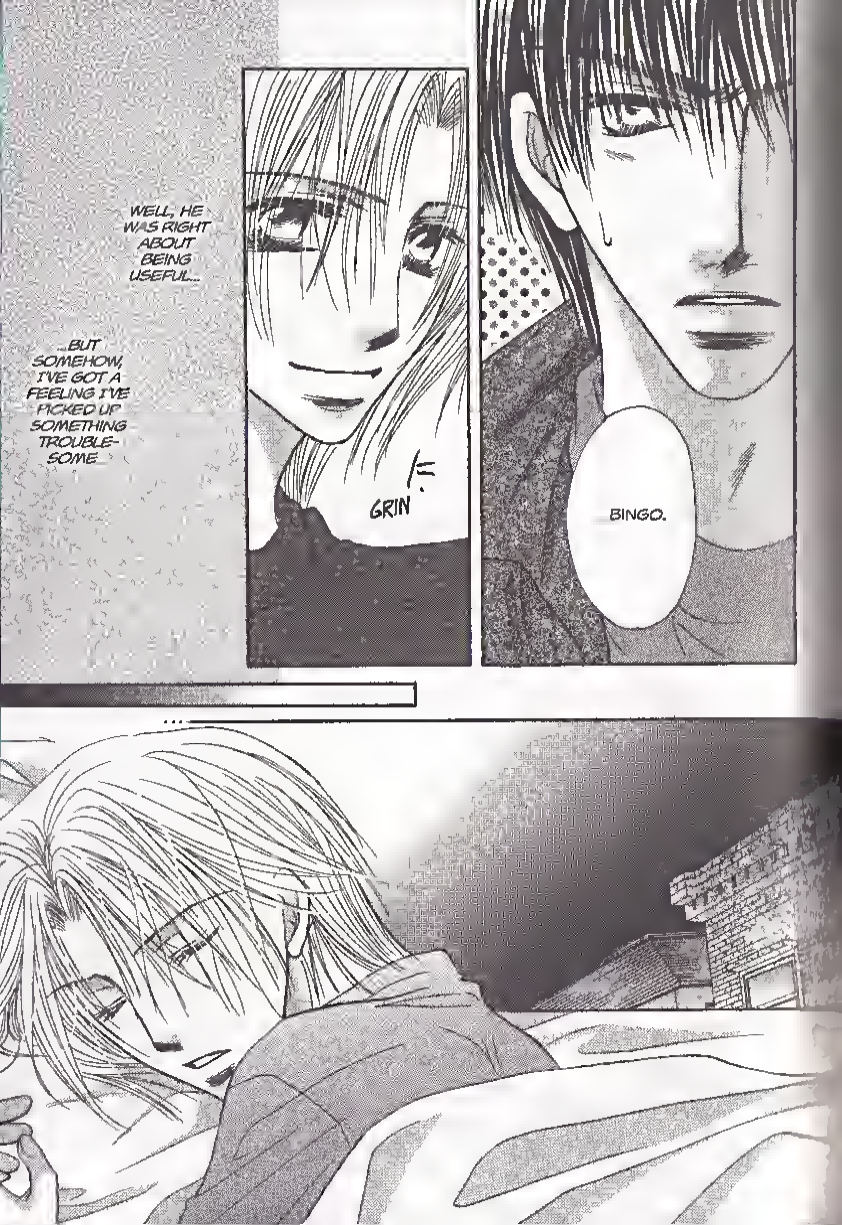
HERE, EAT THIS.
YOU'RE HUNGRY, RIGHT?
I DON'T WANT TO EAT THIS..
WHAT IS IT?
AFTER I WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF COOKING IT?
WHAT?
IS THAT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN LIVING ON?! JUNK FOOD!
YOU'LL GET CAVITIES!!!
YEAH.
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY CANDY OR SNACKS? I COULD EAT THOSE.
CANDY?!

SUGAR INTAKE IS BEST FOR WORKING THE BRAIN.
DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT?
..WELL, SURE, I'VE HEARD SOMETHING LIKE THAT ..BUT.. WHAT'S THE LOGIC BEHIND IT?
ぽい TOSS
FINE...THIS IS ALL I'VE GOT FOR NOW, BUT GO AHEAD AND EAT WHAT YOU CAN.
I DON'T WANT YOU COLLAPSING AGAIN.
..THANK YOU.

UM...CAN I ASK YOU A FAVOR?
WELL... YEAH...
WHAT IS IT NOW?
HEH
WELL, WELL... AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE A SNOTTY LITTLE BRAT WHO DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO SAY A PROPER "THANK YOU"...
...BUT I SEE YOU CAN!
COULD YOU LET ME STAY HERE? NOT "JUST A WHILE", BUT *PERMANENTLY?*
I'LL DO ANYTHING I CAN TO BE USEFUL.

...THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
WHY...?!
YOU SAID YOU'RE A DETECTIVE, RIGHT, KEIGO?
YOU'LL FIND THAT I CAN BE VERY USEFUL TO YOU.
...HUH?
HA?!
CLATTER
THIS PERSON
...YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HIM, AREN'T YOU?
I CAN TELL YOU WHERE HE IS. HE LIVES AND WORKS IN A BAR CALLED "MIYABI", 200 KM WEST OF HERE.

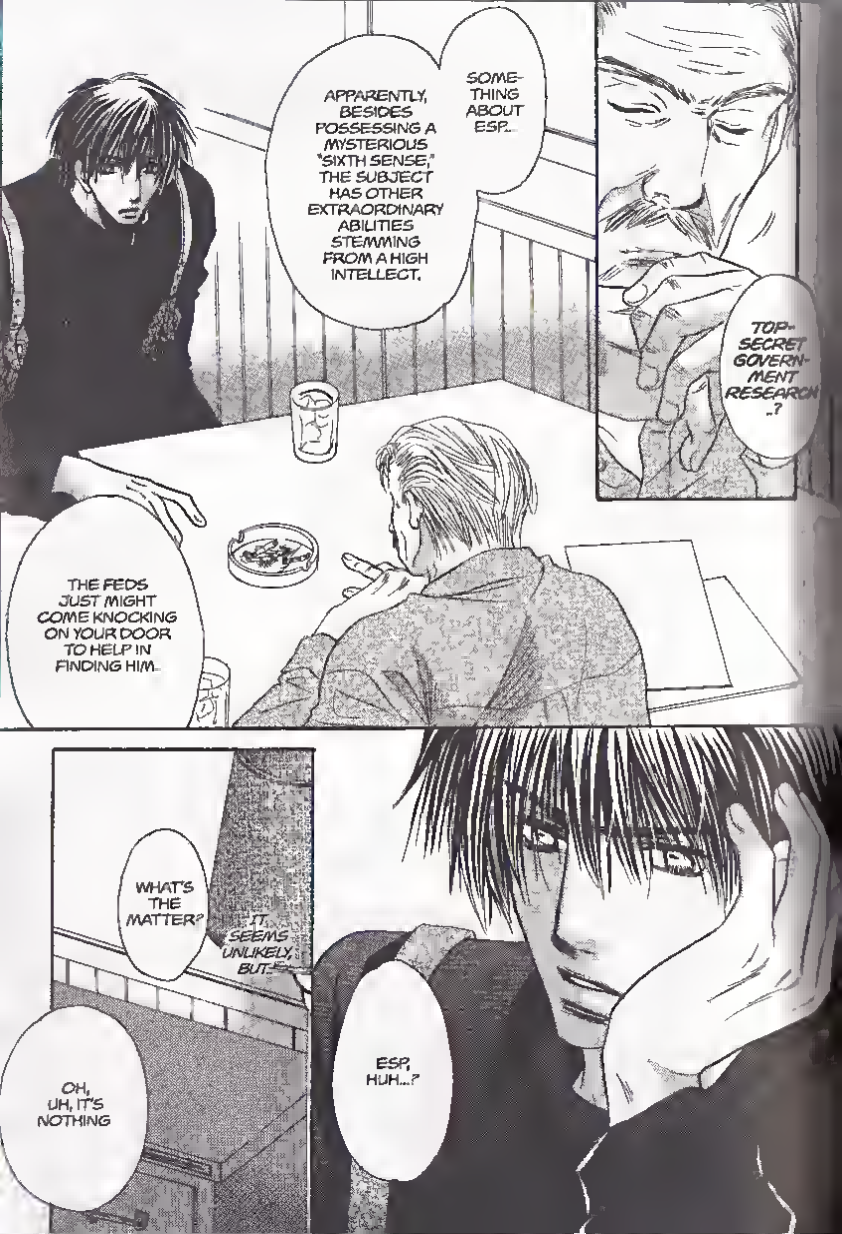
IF I'M RIGHT, YOU'LL LET ME STAY, OKAY?
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW SOME-THING LIKE THAT...?
どーーーーん
DOOOM
NO WAY...
I REALLY FOUND HIM...
I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR OVER A WEEK, WITH NO RESULTS, AND THIS KID...
HOW'D I DO?


WELL, HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT BEING USEFUL...
...BUT SOMEHOW, I'VE GOT A FEELING I'VE PICKED UP SOMETHING TROUBLE-SOME.
GRIN
BINGO.
...

LOOKS LIKE HE'S FAST ASLEEP...
I'VE GOTTA FIND A WAY TO MAKE HIM LEAVE BEFORE HE FINDS OUT ABOUT THIS OTHER OCCUPATION OF MINE...
...
THUNK

CLATTER
NO...!
PLEASE, I'VE GOT MONEY! YOU CAN HAVE IT- JUST SPARE MY LIFE...!
...SORRY, BUT I'VE GOT A JOB TO DO.
DON'T THINK TOO BADLY OF ME.
...GOOD JOB.
HERE'S YOUR FEE.

I THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE A BIT MORE TROUBLE THIS TIME, CONSIDERING THE TARGET WAS THE LEADER OF A DRUG RING, BUT...
BUT I SEE YOU'VE IMPROVED IN SKILL, KEIGO.
THANKS.
I'VE BEEN IN THIS BUSINESS FOR FIVE YEARS NOW--
OF COURSE I'VE IMPROVED.
YES, WELL, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT.
...BY THE WAY, I'VE HEARD AN INTERESTING RUMOR.
IT SEEMS ABOUT FOUR DAYS AGO, A SUBJECT INVOLVED IN TOP-SECRET GOVERNMENT RESEARCH ESCAPED FROM HIS FACILITY
SURE, I'VE BEEN IN SOME HAIRY SITUATIONS. BUT IT JUST MAKES ME MORE GRATEFUL TO BE ALIVE RIGHT NOW.


APPARENTLY, BESIDES POSSESSING A MYSTERIOUS "SIXTH SENSE," THE SUBJECT HAS OTHER EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES STEMMING FROM A HIGH INTELLECT.
SOME-THING ABOUT ESP...
TOP-SECRET GOVERN-MENT RESEARCH...?
THE FEDS JUST MIGHT COME KNOCKING ON YOUR DOOR TO HELP IN FINDING HIM.
ESP, HUH...?
...IT SEEMS UNLIKELY, BUT...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
OH, UH, IT'S NOTHING

THAT'S TRUE. YOU'RE NOT VERY GOOD AT YOUR OFFICIAL JOB!
HA HA!
YOU...
YOU COULD AT LEAST PRETEND TO DISAGREE!
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
NO GOVERNMENT IN ITS RIGHT MIND WOULD TURN TO A SMALL-TOWN PISSANT PRIVATE DICK FOR HELP.
WELL THEN, I'LL CONTACT YOU AGAIN IF THERE'S ANOTHER JOB.
GOTCHA.

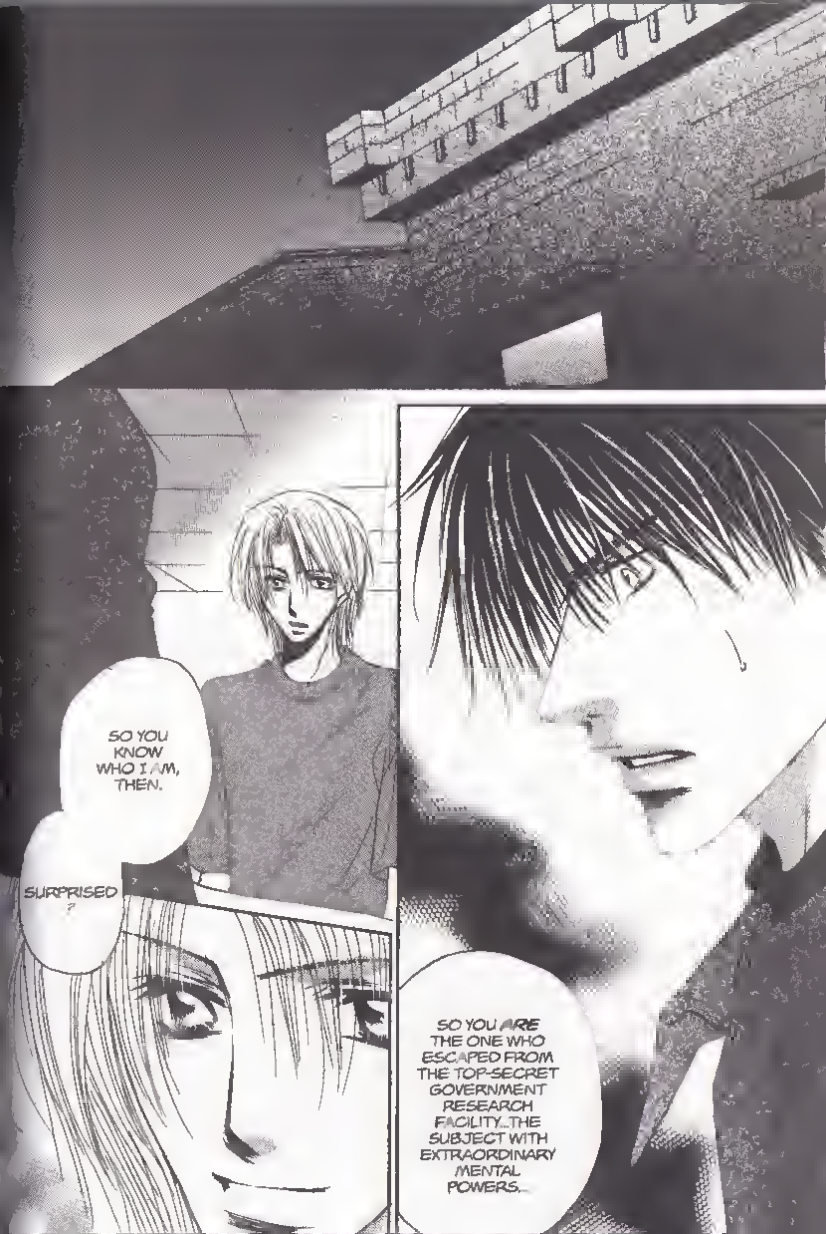
TAP
GUESS HE DIDN'T NOTICE I WAS GONE...
SIGH
IF THE OLD MAN'S STORY IS TRUE...
AND THIS KID REALLY IS THE ESCAPED SUBJECT FROM SOME TOP-SECRET GOVERNMENT RESEARCH FACILITY, THEN EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED WOULD MAKE SENSE

I HOPE I'M NOT GETTING INVOLVED IN ANYTHING TOO TROUBLESOME...
OH YEAH...THAT BAG...I WONDER WHAT'S IN IT?
HE WAS BEING AWFULLY PROTECTIVE OF IT..
RUSTLE

THESE ARE...
INTERNAL REFERENCE MATERIALS OF TOP-SECRET GOVERNMENT RESEARCH...?!
WHAT ARE THESE? I'VE NEVER SEEN ANY OF THESE GADGETS BEFORE...
...I GUESS YOU'VE FOUND OUT WHO I AM...
...MR. DETECTIVE-WHO-IS-ALSO-AN-ASSASSIN.

J-JUST WHAT ARE YOU?!
WHA-
...
はっ
TURN
?!

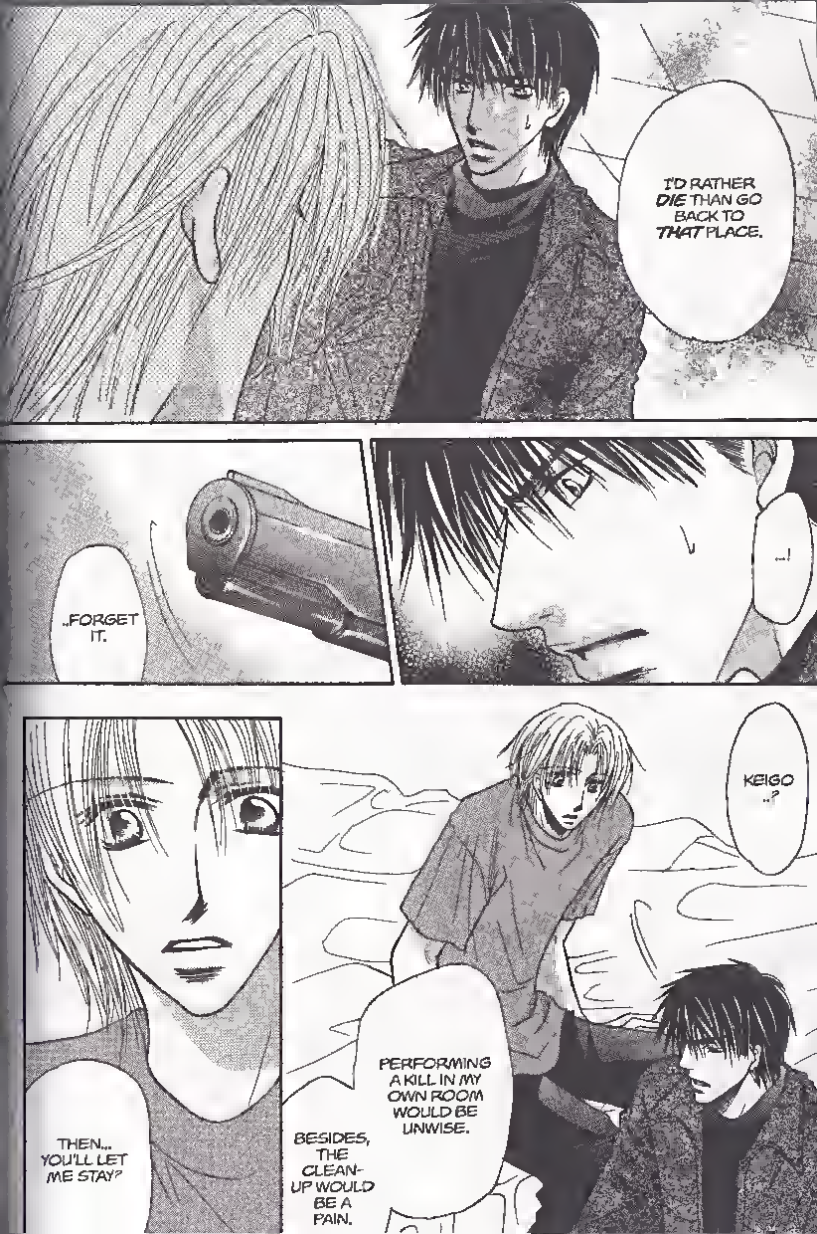
LOVE/KNOT
Mission 2


SO YOU KNOW WHO I AM, THEN.
SURPRISED?
SO YOU ARE THE ONE WHO ESCAPED FROM THE TOP-SECRET GOVERNMENT RESEARCH FACILITY...THE SUBJECT WITH EXTRAORDINARY MENTAL POWERS...

WELL... SURE I'M SURPRISED, BUT...
...HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN I'M ALSO AN ASSASSIN?
I KNOW YOU THOUGHT YOU HID IT WELL, KEIGO...
BUT I'M SORRY - I DID A LITTLE "SEEING" INTO YOU SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE
..SO THE DAY AFTER I ARRIVED I ALREADY KNEW WHAT YOU REALLY ARE

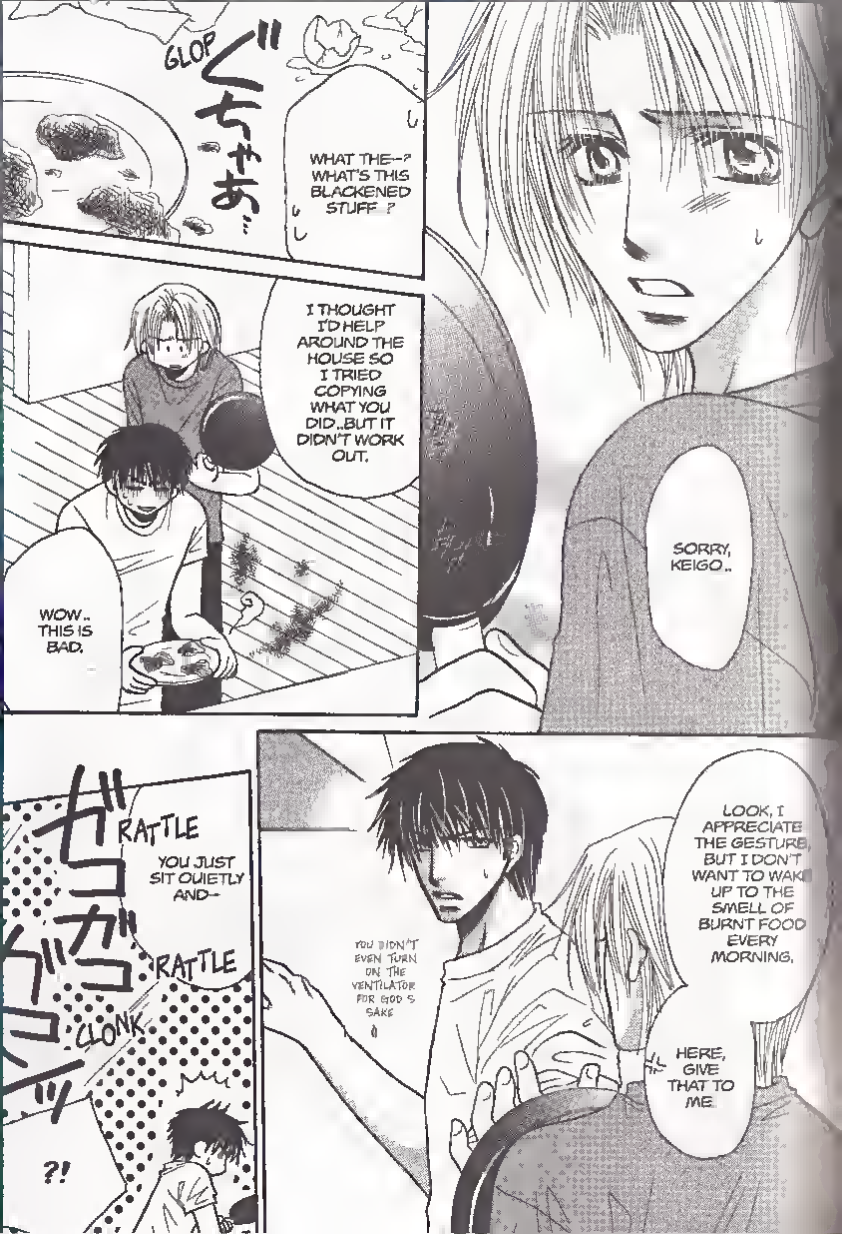
"SEEING"..?
THIS WHOLE ROOM SMELLS OF BLOOD.
EITHER BY TOUCHING A PERSON DIRECTLY OR BY HANDLING AN OBJECT THEY'VE PREVIOUSLY TOUCHED, I CAN "SEE" TRACES OF EMOTIONS OR THOUGHT PATTERNS.
IT'S NOT THAT DIFFICULT.
HMM... SO I GUESS IT MEANS I'D BETTER BE CAREFUL AROUND YOU, HUH?
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN SEE EVERY-THING, THOUGH.
I HAVE TO FOCUS MY CONCEN-TRATION OR I CAN'T READ ANYTHING.
I SEE..

SMILE
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, LEAVE RIGHT NOW.
BUT NOW THAT YOU KNOW WHAT I REALLY AM, I CAN'T LET YOU STAY HERE ANY LONGER.
KACHAK
IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME, GO AHEAD.
WH-...?!


I'D RATHER DIE THAN GO BACK TO THAT PLACE.
..FORGET IT.
...!
KEIGO ..?
PERFORMING A KILL IN MY OWN ROOM WOULD BE UNWISE.
BESIDES, THE CLEAN-UP WOULD BE A PAIN.
THEN... YOU'LL LET ME STAY?

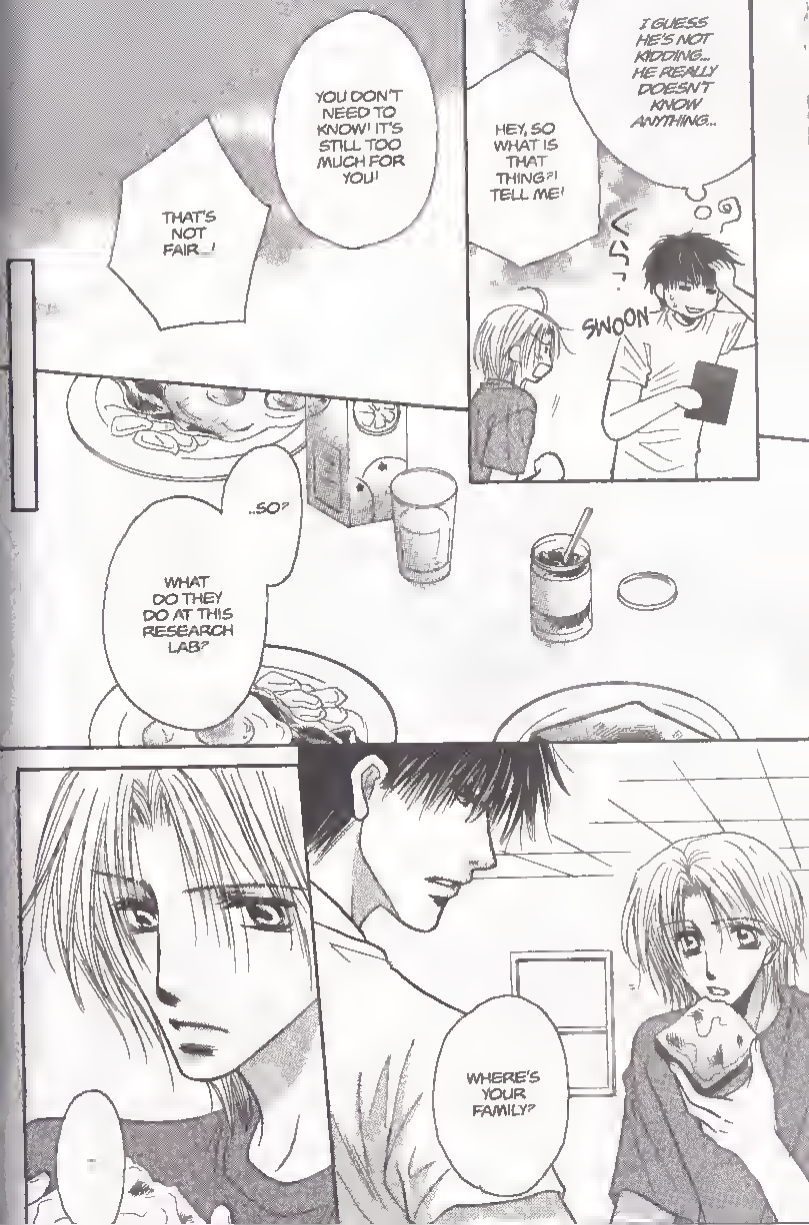
THANK YOU, KEIGO.
DO WHAT YOU WANT.
BUT IF THEY FIND YOU, I'M NOT GOING TO LIFT A FINGER TO HELP YOU! GOT THAT?!
HE'S THROWN ME OFF MY GAME. THAT'S FOR SURE...
WHEN HE LOOKED AT ME WITH THOSE EYES, I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO PULL THE TRIGGER.
THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE...

...OKAY!
EMIYA?! WHAT ARE YOU D-...?!
もぞっ
RUSTLE
mm
...HUH? THIS SMELL...
?!
がばっ
SWISH


GLOP
くちゃあ
WHAT THE--? WHAT'S THIS BLACKENED STUFF..?
I THOUGHT I'D HELP AROUND THE HOUSE SO I TRIED COPYING WHAT YOU DID..BUT IT DIDN'T WORK OUT.
WOW.. THIS IS BAD.
SORRY, KEIGO..
LOOK, I APPRECIATE THE GESTURE, BUT I DON'T WANT TO WAKE UP TO THE SMELL OF BURNT FOOD EVERY MORNING.
HERE, GIVE THAT TO ME.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN TURN ON THE VENTILATOR FOR GOD'S SAKE
ガコガコ
RATTLE
YOU JUST SIT QUIETLY AND--
RATTLE
CLONK
?!

THAT'S HOW YOU USE THAT MACHINE, RIGHT?
..
DROOP
よネっ
MY HOLSTER IT WAS A REAL LEATHER TOO...
BAM
NOW WHAT?!
OH, I DID THAT, TOO..
RATTLE
CLATTER
RATTLE
CLATTER
I SUPPOSE IT DOES MAKE YOU SEEM A LITTLE MORE HUMAN, BUT...
UGH I'M TIRED ALL OF A SUDDEN
SORRY
WHEN I WAS BACK AT THE LAB, THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF THIS STUFF FOR ME, SO...
OH RIGHT NEW PLATES
YOU MAY HAVE SOME SUPER POWER, BUT IT'S NOT MUCH HELP FOR THESE EVERYDAY KIND OF THINGS, HUH?

ANYWAY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING. I'LL TEACH YOU STUFF A LITTLE AT A T-.
WHOA!
WHAT?! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE NOW?!
HEY! THAT'S-!
SECRET DVD
I SAW THIS NUDE LADY LOOKING LIKE SHE WAS REALLY SUFFERING
WHAT IS THAT?!
GRAB
NEVER MIND! QUIT "SEEING" INTO EVERY-THING!!!
SHEESH... ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU'VE NEVER LOOKED AT STUFF LIKE THIS BEFORE?
N...O...


I GUESS HE'S NOT KIDDING... HE REALLY DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING...
HEY, SO WHAT IS THAT THING?! TELL ME!
SWOON
YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW! IT'S STILL TOO MUCH FOR YOU!
THAT'S NOT FAIR...!
..SO?
WHAT DO THEY DO AT THIS RESEARCH LAB?
WHERE'S YOUR FAMILY?

THE LAB IS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY AND I WAS THERE EVERY DAY, TRACKING THE ACTIONS OF GOVERNMENT MEMBERS, FORECASTING FUTURE EVENTS...THINGS LIKE THAT.
WOW. AND WERE YOU ALWAYS RIGHT?
FOR THE MOST PART. YEAH.
AND I DON'T HAVE ANY PARENTS.
PRETTY AWFUL PARENTS.
I DON'T BLAME THEM.
I WAS ABANDONED AT AN EARLY AGE BECAUSE OF THESE FREAKISH ABILITIES OF MINE. I'VE BEEN LIVING AT THE LAB EVER SINCE.
ANY PARENT WOULD BE CREEPED OUT TO HAVE A CHILD LIKE ME...AND BESIDES—
GRIP

YOU'VE GOT JAM ON YOUR FACE.
HUH?
OH.
IF IT'S TOO PAINFUL FOR YOU, YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME EVERYTHING AT ONCE.
KEIGO ...?
NO MATTER WHAT YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES WERE IN THE PAST, YOU WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE. AND NOW HERE YOU ARE.
WHO KNOWS? MAYBE IT'S ALL PART OF A GREATER PLAN COOKED UP BY THAT BRAIN OF YOURS, WHICH SUBCONSCIOUSLY GUIDED YOU TO COME TUMBLING INTO MY PLACE.
KEIGO...

I KNOW! LET'S GO OUT SOMEWHERE AND HAVE FUN
HUH? BUT IF WE DO THAT–
WE'LL DISGUISE YOU. IT'LL BE FINE.
ANYWHERE IN PARTICULAR YOU WANT TO GO?
WOW! THIS IS GREAT KEIGO!
I'VE READ IT IN BOOKS AND SEEN IT ON TV...BUT I NEVER THOUGHT IT'D BE THIS HUGE!
GLAD YOU LIKE IT.

JUST LOOK AT HOW EXCITED HE IS
...BUT AN AMUSEMENT PARK AND SOME SHOPPING!" THIS IS A TOTAL DATE COURSE!
JUDGING BY HIS PREVIOUS BEHAVIOR, HE MUST'VE BEEN LIVING IN A PRETTY RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT.
BE CAREFUL! I KNOW YOU'RE FASCINATED BY ALL THIS, BUT WATCH WHERE YOU RE WALKING TOO, YOU LL GET HURT!
WHOA!
HEY, KEIGO! LET'S RIDE THAT ONE NEXT—
TRIP
YANK
SORRY.. I JUST..

AND PULL THAT CAP DOWN A LITTLE MORE!
'KAY...
PUSH
PUSH
ぎゅう
ぎゅう
YOU REALLY ARE A HANDFUL...
...I'VE FINALLY SPOTTED HIM, MR. HAMURO. BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THERE IS SOMEONE PROTECTING HIM.
HOW SHALL I PROCEED?
...

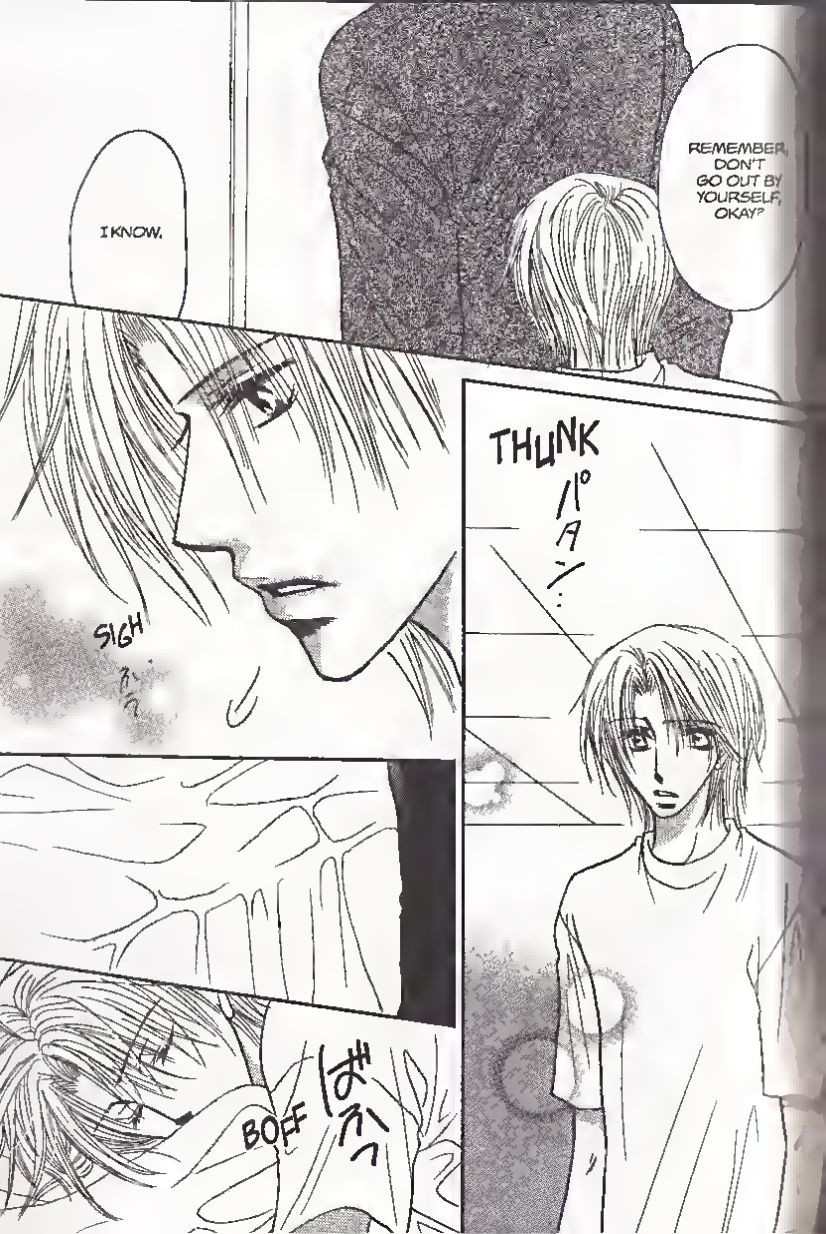
I SEE...
KEEP TAILING THEM, BUT STAY OUT OF SIGHT. FIND OUT WHERE THEY'RE STAYING.
カチャ CHAK
AND DON'T FORGET TO DO A BACKGROUND CHECK ON WHOEVER IS PROTECTING HIM.
WE CAN ALWAYS RETRIEVE HIM AFTER THAT.
UNDER-STOOD.
JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER..

..GO AHEAD AND ENJOY THE OUTSIDE WORLD WHILE YOU STILL CAN.
..THIS IS MY NEXT CASE, CAN YOU "SENSE" ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

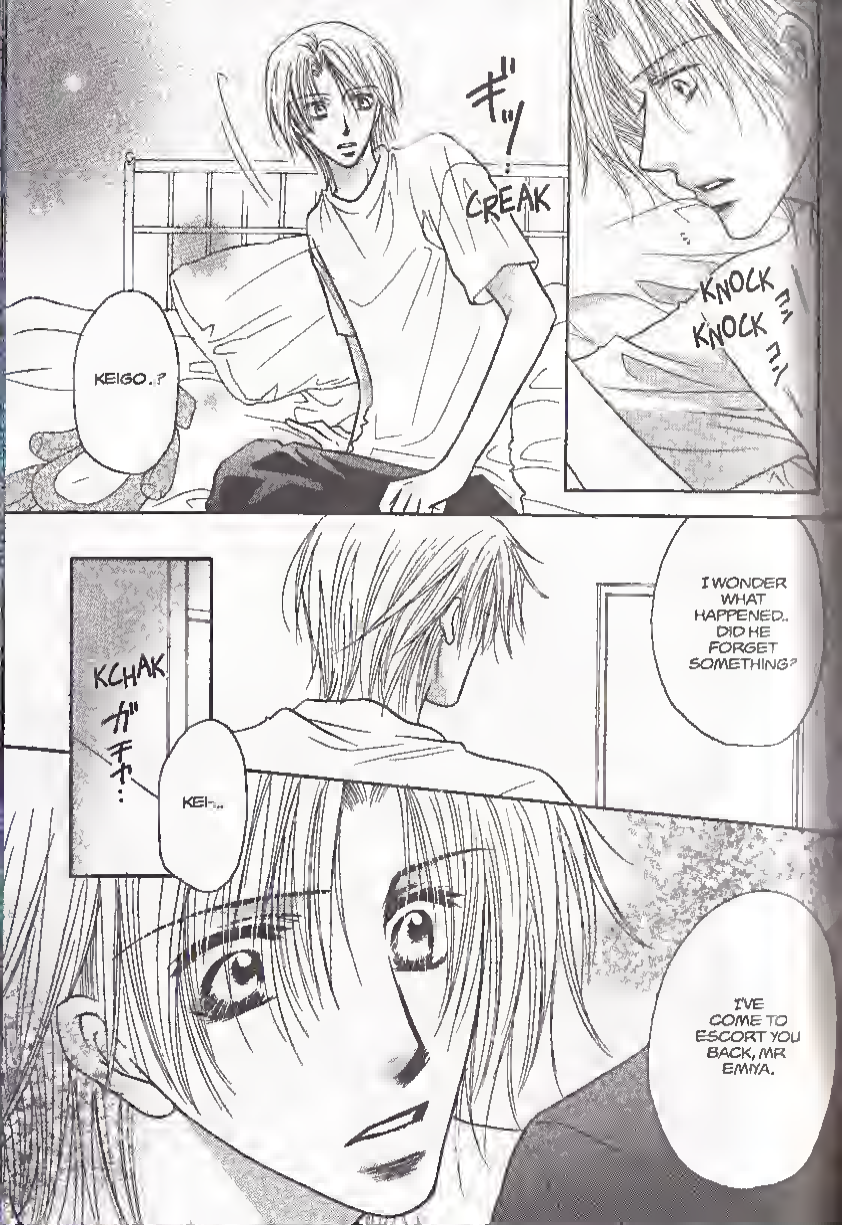
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S HAVING A LITTLE MORE TROUBLE THAN USUAL...
HEY, ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
DON'T TALK OR YOU'LL DISRUPT ME.
NO, I KNOW THAT, BUT..

I'M ALL RIGHT.
I JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE A LITTLE TIRED.
I'VE ASKED A LOT FROM YOU THESE LAST FEW DAYS. HELPING ME WITH ALL MY CASES AND WHATNOT..
CLATTER
ガタッ!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. DON'T PUSH YOURSELF.
IF YOU CAN HOLD ON A BIT LONGER. I'M STARTING TO SEE A LITTLE SOMETHING, BUT..
I'M SORRY, KEIGO.

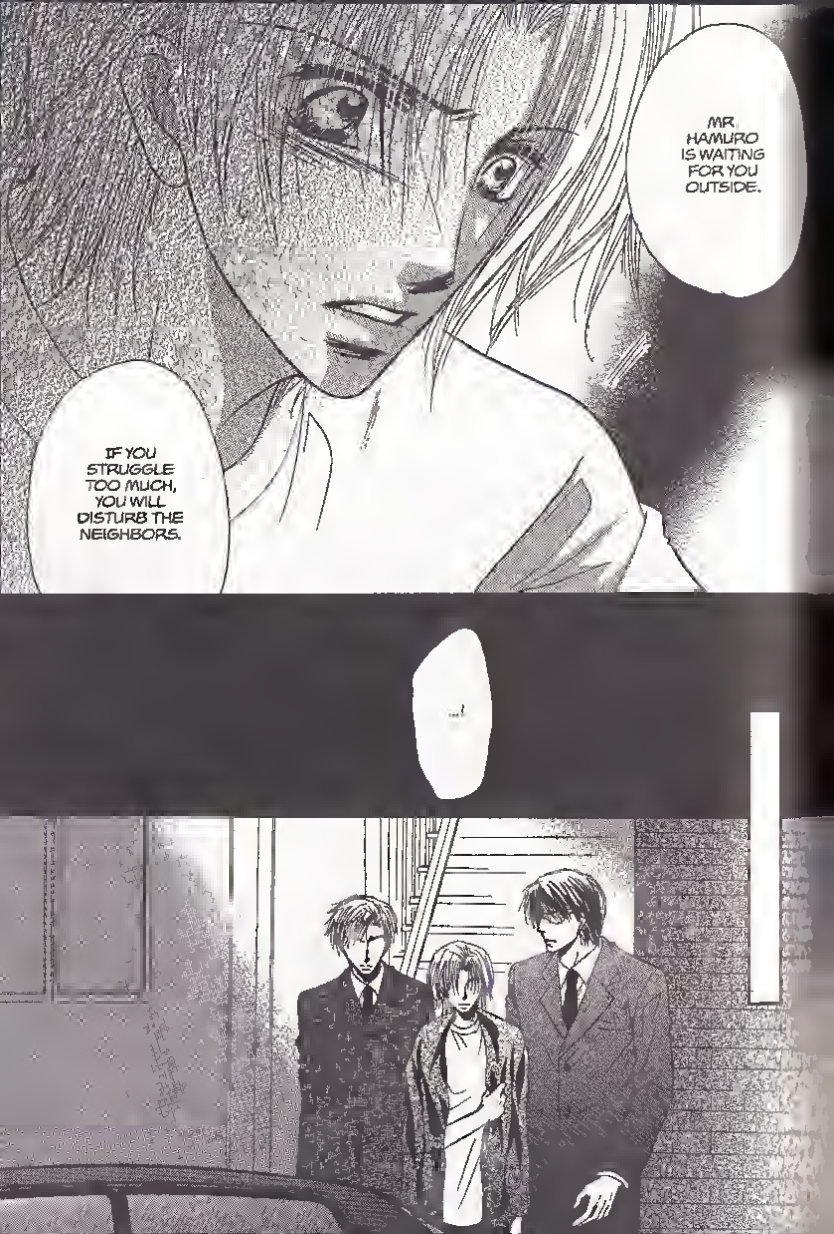
DO YOU WANT ME TO COME WITH YOU?
I MAY BE ABLE TO SEE SOMETHING IF I TRACE HIS FOOT-STEPS...
IT'S OKAY. JUST REST UP FOR TODAY.
WELL, I'M OFF.
I SHOULD BE DOING THIS WORK ON MY OWN. I'VE BEEN RELYING TOO MUCH ON YOUR POWERS LATELY.
I CAN'T ALWAYS BE DEPENDING ON YOU FOR HELP.
OKAY.

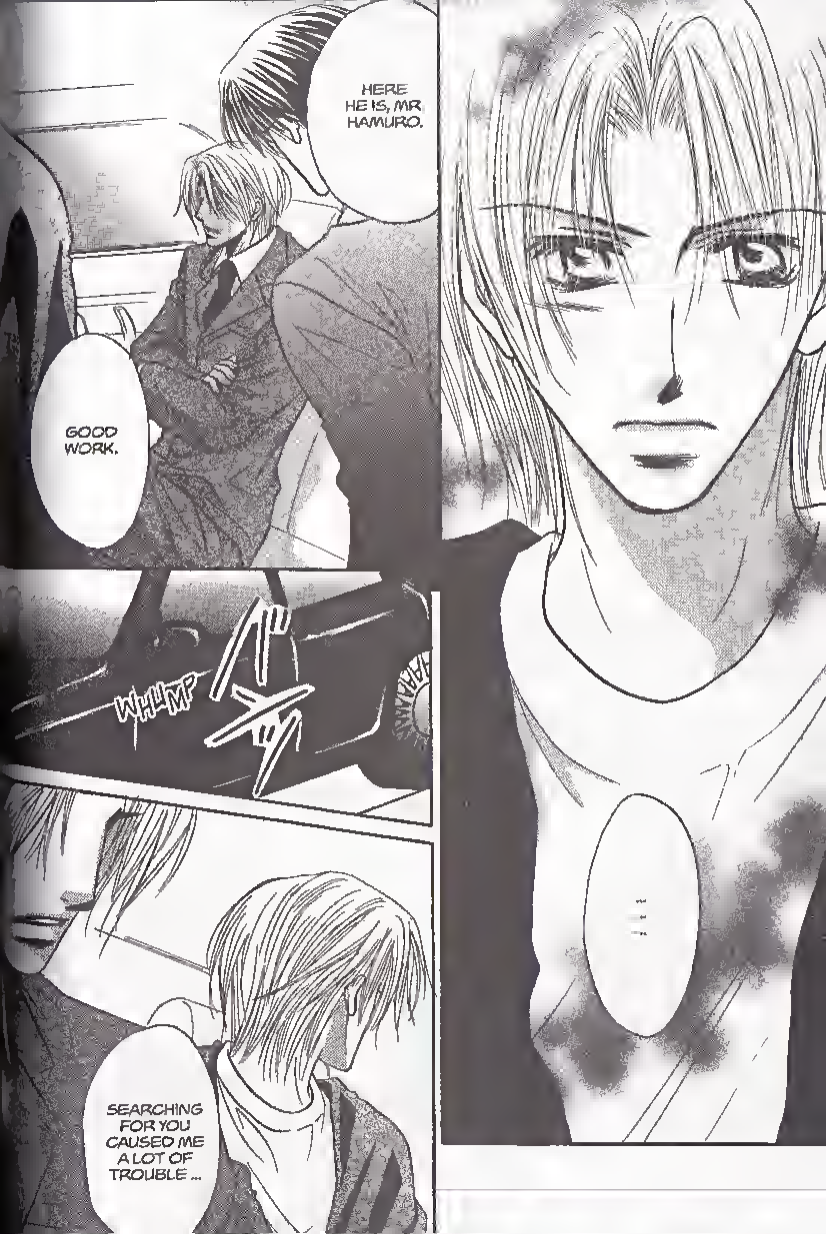

REMEMBER, DON'T GO OUT BY YOURSELF, OKAY?
I KNOW.
THUNK
パタン
SIGH
BOFF
ばふっ

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED SO FAST..
HE'S RIGHT...I MAY BE A LITTLE TIRED.
CHUCKLE

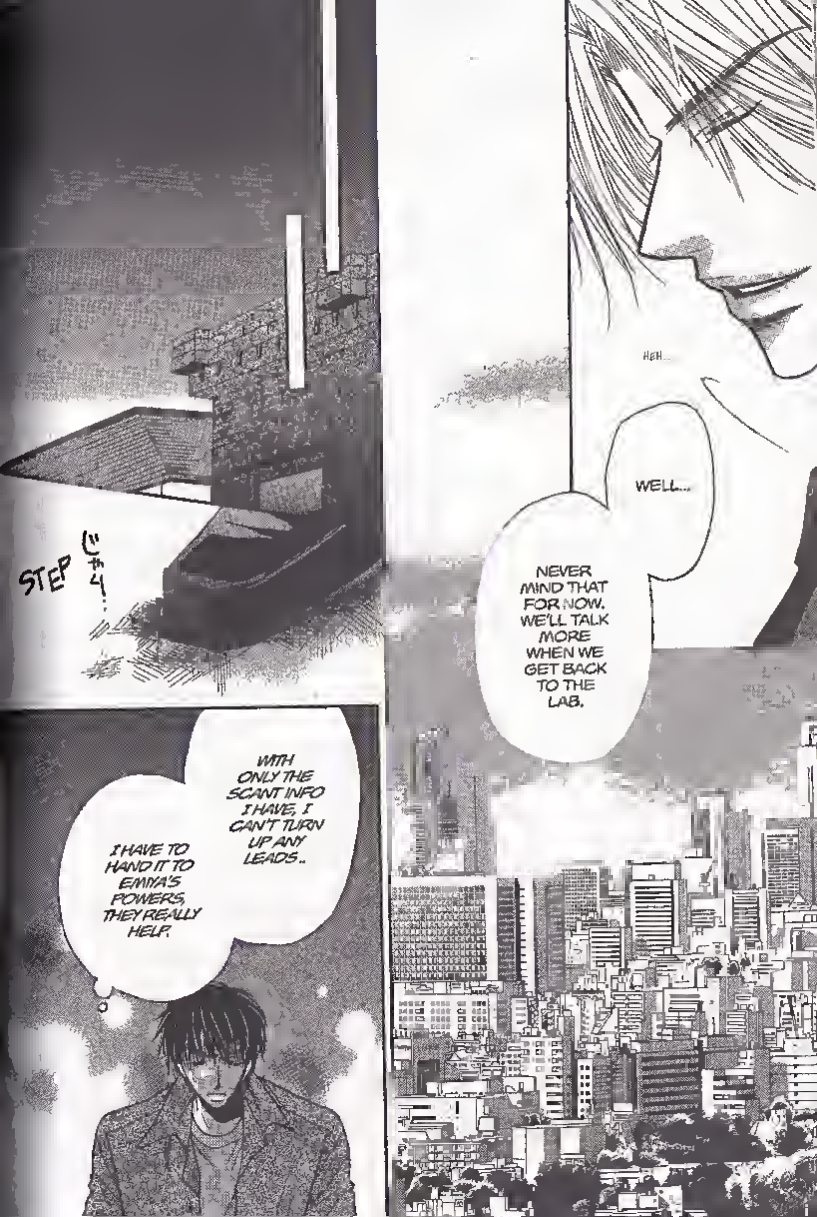

KEIGO..?
ギッ!
CREAK
KNOCK KNOCK
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED.. DID HE FORGET SOMETHING?
KCHAK
ガチャ…
KEI-..
I'VE COME TO ESCORT YOU BACK, MR EMIYA.

GO AWAY!
I'M NEVER GOING BACK TO THAT PLACE! NEVER!!!
BAM
MOVE
NO! LET GO!
YANK
WHA-...!

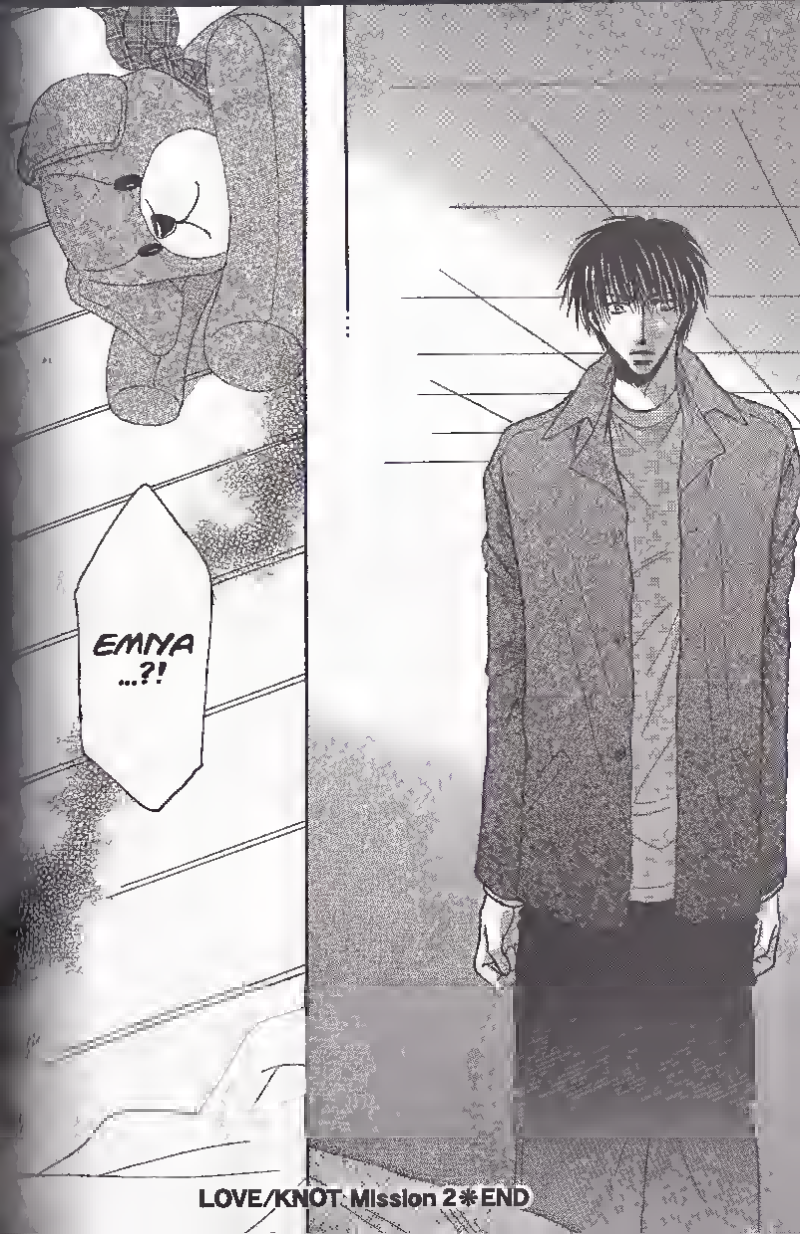

MR. HAMURO IS WAITING FOR YOU OUTSIDE.
IF YOU STRUGGLE TOO MUCH, YOU WILL DISTURB THE NEIGHBORS.
...!

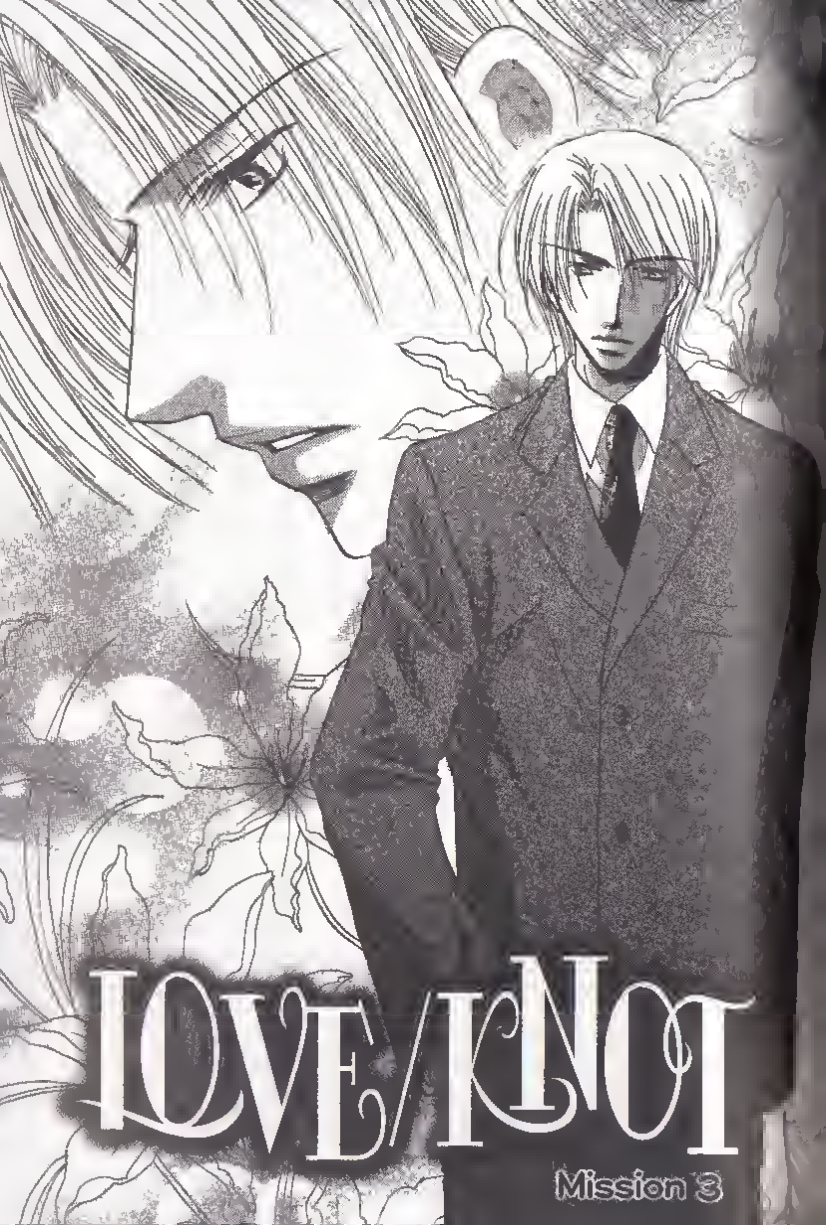

HERE HE IS, MR. HAMURO.
GOOD WORK.
WHUMP
SEARCHING FOR YOU CAUSED ME A LOT OF TROUBLE...

...EMIYA?
SINCE WHEN DID YOU BECOME SUCH A NAUGHTY BOY.
...I SEE THAT THE COLOR OF YOUR EYES HASN'T CHANGED.
!
WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN A WHILE, WHY DO YOU TURN AWAY?
SLIP
YANK


HEH...
WELL...
NEVER MIND THAT FOR NOW. WE'LL TALK MORE WHEN WE GET BACK TO THE LAB.
STEP
ジャ...
WITH ONLY THE SCANT INFO I HAVE, I CAN'T TURN UP ANY LEADS..
I HAVE TO HAND IT TO EMMA'S POWERS, THEY REALLY HELP.

THE LIGHTS AREN'T ON. STRANGE. HE'S USUALLY STILL AWAKE AT THIS HOUR.
?
ガチャ
KCHAK
EMIYA...?
HEY, YOU ASLEEP?

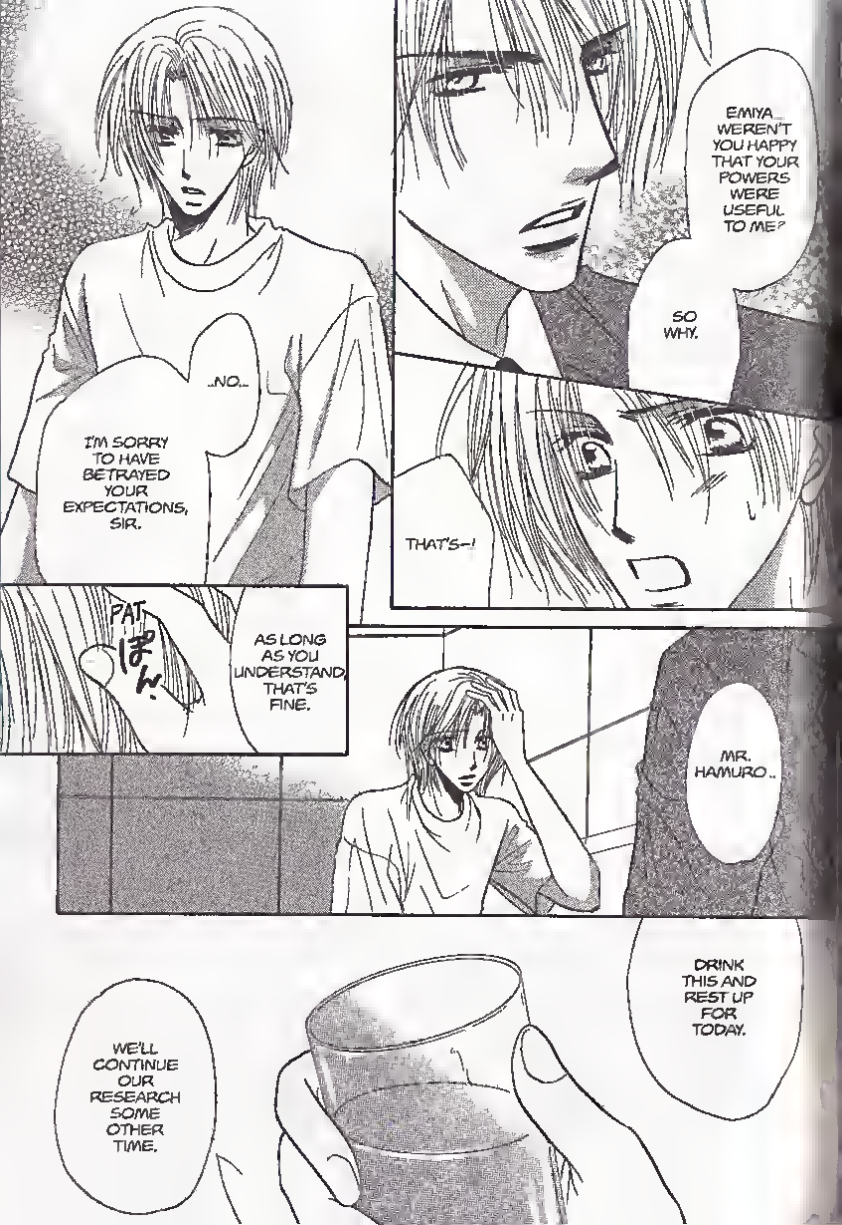

EMIYA
...?!


LOVE/NOT
Mission 3

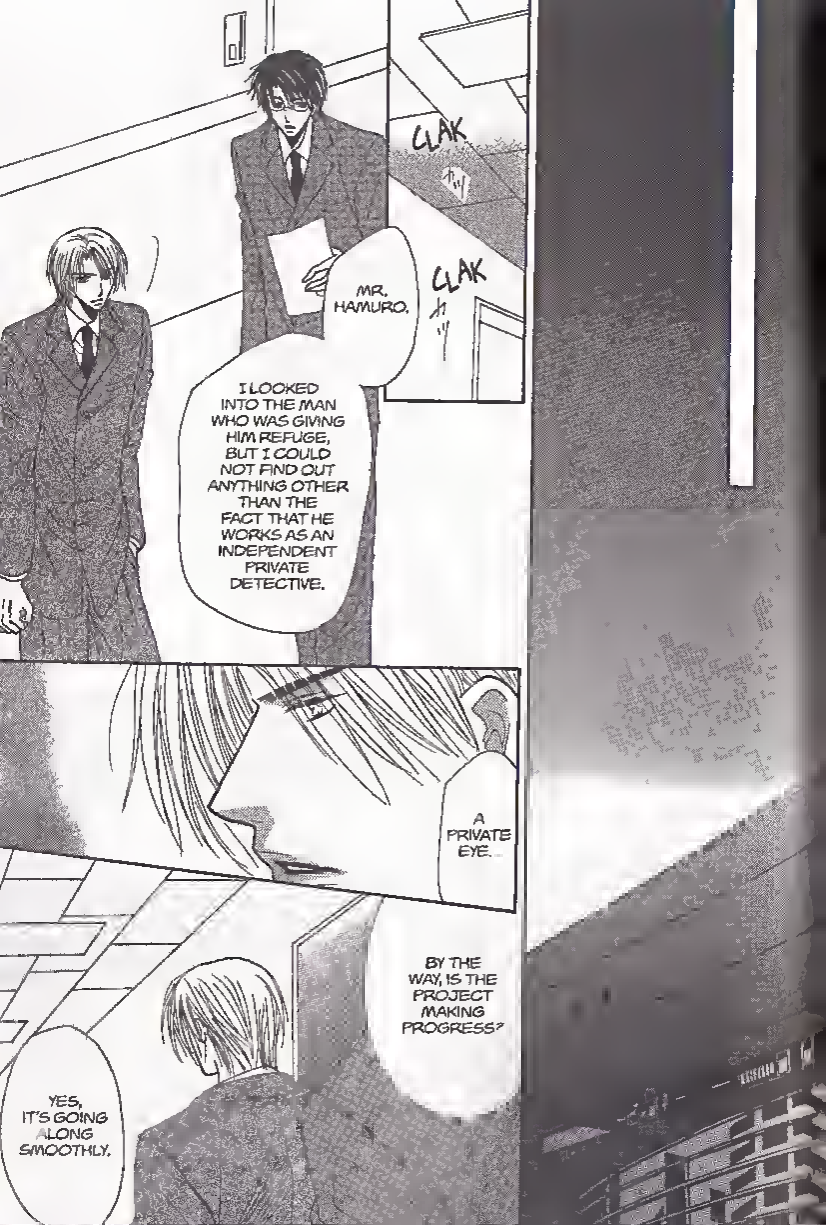
JUST WHEN I WAS STARTING TO THINK WE MADE A PRETTY GOOD TEAM...
EMIY...
I GUESS HE DECIDED TO GO BACK ON HIS OWN...

NOW, WOULD YOU MIND EXPLAINING YOURSELF, EMIYA?
THIS PLACE MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD, BUT I BELIEVE I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING I COULD TO MAKE YOUR LIFE HERE AS COMFORTABLE AS POSSIBLE.
SO TELL ME, WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY LIKE THAT?

IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE I TOOK YOU IN...
THINKING TO DRAW OUT THAT TALENT OF YOURS TO ITS MAXIMUM POTENTIAL, I PURPOSELY GAVE YOU A SPARTAN UPBRINGING.
CREAK
YOU MAY THINK ME HARSH, BUT I DID IT ONLY BECAUSE I FELT IT WAS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD... AND BECAUSE I HAVE SUCH HIGH HOPES FOR YOU.


EMIYA... WEREN'T YOU HAPPY THAT YOUR POWERS WERE USEFUL TO ME?
SO WHY.
THAT'S--!
..NO..
I'M SORRY TO HAVE BETRAYED YOUR EXPECTATIONS, SIR.
PAT
ぽん
AS LONG AS YOU UNDERSTAND, THAT'S FINE.
MR. HAMURO..
DRINK THIS AND REST UP FOR TODAY.
WE'LL CONTINUE OUR RESEARCH SOME OTHER TIME.

..YES, SIR...
THUD
!!
...


CLAK
CLAK
MR. HAMURO,
I LOOKED INTO THE MAN WHO WAS GIVING HIM REFUGE, BUT I COULD NOT FIND OUT ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT HE WORKS AS AN INDEPENDENT PRIVATE DETECTIVE.
A PRIVATE EYE...
BY THE WAY, IS THE PROJECT MAKING PROGRESS?
YES, IT'S GOING ALONG SMOOTHLY.

YES, SIR. I WILL TAKE MY LEAVE OF YOU NOW.
DON'T FORGET TO SEE TO EMIYA.
...I SEE. GOOD. CONTINUE ON.
.....

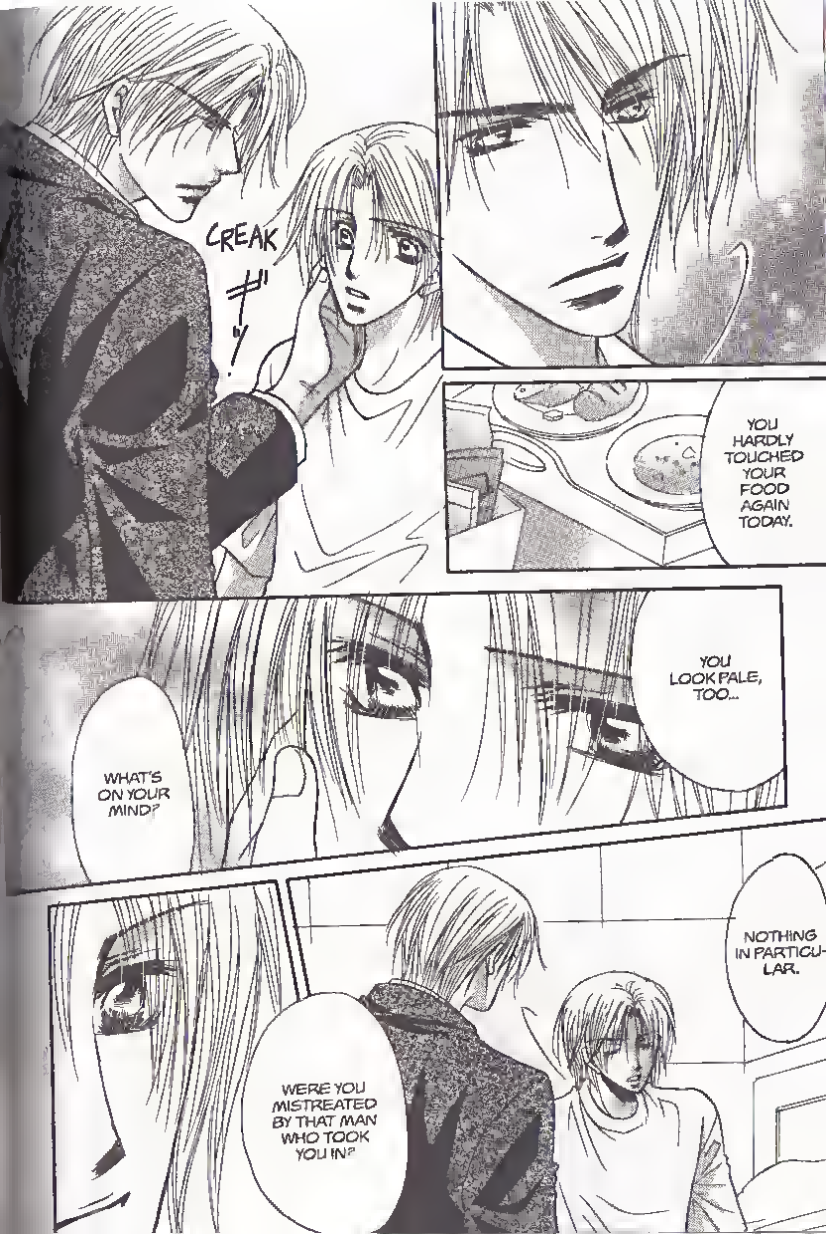
GUN
...
IT SURE IS QUIET...
I'VE ALWAYS AVOIDED CONTACT WITH PEOPLE...
BECAUSE I THOUGHT BEING ALONE WAS EASIER TO DEAL WITH. BUT...

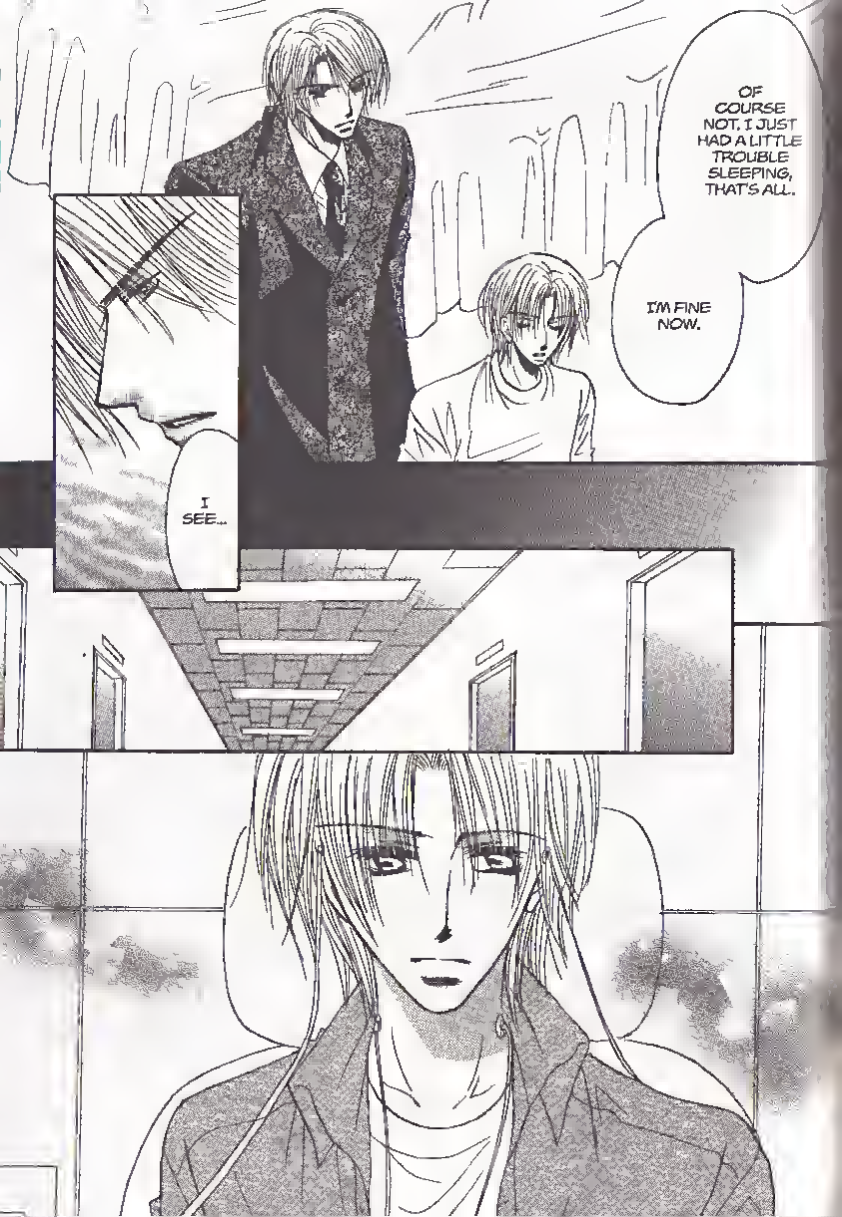
I NEVER REALIZED HOW BLAND LIVING ALONE REALLY IS..
...WHEN HE WAS HERE, EVERY DAY HAD FELT LIKE A NEW EXPERIENCE...
I'LL HAVE TO GO SHOPPING...
LET'S SEE...BEER... BEER...HUH? GUESS I'M ALL OUT.
...?
RUSTLE

THE LAB HE'S FROM WOULD SURELY NEED THIS STUFF FOR CONTINUED RESEARCH. AT LEAST THEY WOULD WANT TO KEEP IT FROM BEING LEAKED...
SO WHY..?
I'D RATHER DIE THAN GO BACK TO THAT PLACE.
WAIT... ISN'T THIS HIS? HE LEFT IT BEHIND..
BUT IF THAT'S SO, THEN—
...!
WHAM
DAMMIT!

M..
MM..
...?
TWINGE
OW..!
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN ASLEEP..?
I'VE BEEN SLEEPING A LOT EVER SINCE I GOT BACK..

IF I USE MY POWER, I CAN SEE HIM ANY TIME.
BUT...
CHAK
I WONDER WHAT KEIGO'S DOING RIGHT NOW..
I WONDER IF HE MANAGED TO COMPLETE THE JOB HE WAS ASKED TO DO..
DID YOU SLEEP WELL, EMIYA?
MR. HAMURO


CREAK
YOU HARDLY TOUCHED YOUR FOOD AGAIN TODAY.
YOU LOOK PALE, TOO...
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
NOTHING IN PARTICULAR.
WERE YOU MISTREATED BY THAT MAN WHO TOOK YOU IN?


OF COURSE NOT. I JUST HAD A LITTLE TROUBLE SLEEPING, THAT'S ALL.
I'M FINE NOW.
I SEE...

HOW IS HE DOING?
AT THIS TIME, I DETECT NO IRREGULARITIES IN HIS BRAIN WAVES.
HOWEVER, HIS POWERS SEEM TO HAVE DIMINISHED SOMEWHAT.
KEIGO...
I FIND MYSELF THINKING OF YOU ALL THE TIME, KEIGO.
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?

KEIGO...?!
I WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
NO WAY! IT CAN'T BE..
...KEIGO...
THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE—
WHAT'S GOING ON?! HIS BRAIN WAVES ARE SUDDENLY GOING CRAZY!

MR. HAMURO...
GASP
はっ
SHUT IT OFF.
EMMA, THAT'S ENOUGH. RETURN TO YOUR ROOM.
BUT SIR-
...YES, I UNDERSTAND...
NO, DON'T DO IT...!
YOU MUSTN'T COME HERE, KEISO...!

STEP!
MR. HAMURO, THERE'S BEEN AN INCIDENT!
YOU SEE.
WHAT..?
WHISPER
HOW DID HE GET PAST OUR SECURITY..?
YOU THERE! STOP!
I DON'T KNOW, BUT PLEASE, TAKE MR. EMIYA AND—

KEIGO..
W-...WHY DID YOU COME HERE?!
I NEVER TOLD YOU THE LOCATION OF THIS PLACE! HOW DID YOU-?
...YO, EMIYA.

I SEE YOU'RE NO ORDINARY DETECTIVE.
I UNDERSTAND YOU TOOK GOOD CARE OF EMIYA FOR US. I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT THANKING YOU SOONER.
SO YOU'RE THOSE GUYS, HUH?
...THE PEOPLE ENSLAVING EMIYA FOR YOUR OWN PURPOSES...

CRINKLE
OH YEAH... THIS.
I DON'T REMEMBER DOING ANYTHING TO EARN THIS HUGE SUM OF MONEY, SO I'VE COME TO RETURN IT.
WHA-...
WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS HERE?
IF IT'S A REWARD YOU WANT, I BELIEVE I ALREADY SENT YOU SOMETHING THROUGH OUR HEAD-QUARTERS.
OH, AND SOMETHING ELSE—
THUD
I THOUGHT YOU'D NEED THIS, SO I CAME TO DELIVER IT TO YOU.
KEIGO, THAT'S—!

WHAT ARE YOU HESITATING FOR, EMIYA?
YOU KNOW THAT THE BEST THING FOR YOU IS TO STAY WITH ME
KEI-...
NEVER MIND THAT. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO? WANT TO COME BACK WITH ME?
IT'S NOTHING YOU PERSONALLY NEED, RIGHT?
YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, RIGHT? SO COME HERE.
...!

...I...
I WANT TO GO WITH KEIGO.
WHAT...?!
WHAT DID YOU SAY...?
HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE YOUR PLAYTHING ANYMORE.
THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, THEN.

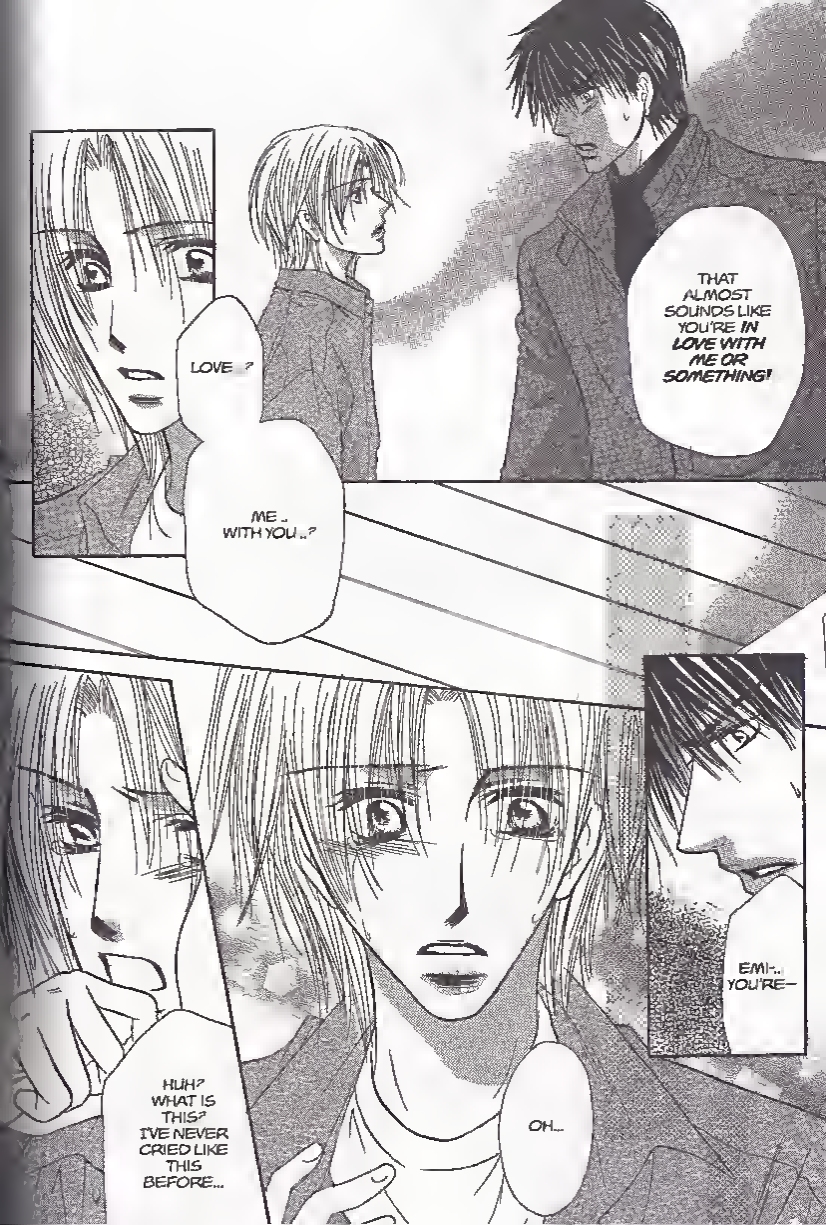
TUG
CALL SECURITY, QUICKLY!
LET'S GO, EMIYA.
THAT'S NOT NECESSARY.
BUT MR. HAMURO--!
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOULD KNOW BEST THE REASON WHY EMIYA DOESN'T WANT TO STAY HERE.
!

SHIVER
GRIP
WHAT'S THE POINT OF KEEPING HIM HERE IF HE'S USELESS?
WHO CARES? LET HIM TASTE FREEDOM.
NO MATTER WHERE YOU RUN TO, EMIYA YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MINE

ONE MISTAKE AND THEY MIGHT HAVE DISCOVERED THAT YOU'RE ALSO AN ASSASSIN...!
WHY DID YOU COME TO RESCUE ME..?!
IF THAT HAPPENED EVEN YOU WOULDN'T GET AWAY, KEIGO!
SO WHY DID YOU PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME...?
...I THOUGHT I HEARD YOUR VOICE
...WHAT?

AT FIRST, I DIDN'T WANT TO GET MIXED UP IN ANY TROUBLE, BUT...
...WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER...IT BOTHERED ME.
KEIGO ...
YOU SAW ME WHILE I WAS ON MY WAY TO YOU, RIGHT?
SO I SEARCHED FOR YOU... BUT SINCE I WAS AS INEFFICIENT AS USUAL, I WAS A LITTLE LATE GETTING TO YOU.
...EMIYA?

I ALWAYS THINK ABOUT YOU..
SOMETHING'S BEEN WRONG WITH ME EVER SINCE I MET YOU, KEIGO.
...AND WHEN I DO, MY CHEST FEELS TIGHT AND I CAN'T BREATHE.
AND IT ONLY GOT WORSE WHEN I RETURNED TO THAT PLACE...
...AND..
BUT EMIYA... THAT...


THAT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME OR SOMETHING!
LOVE...?
ME.. WITH YOU..?
EMI-.. YOU'RE—
OH...
HUH? WHAT IS THIS? I'VE NEVER CRIED LIKE THIS BEFORE...

KEI-...
IT'S A GOOD SIGN. IT MEANS YOU'RE BECOMING MORE HONEST WITH YOURSELF
I KNOW IT'S NOT FOR ME TO SAY THIS, BUT THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO STAY IN A PRISON-LIKE PLACE LIKE THAT.
LIVE LIKE A HUMAN BEING
I'M SURE THAT WILL BE FOR YOUR OWN GOOD

KEIGO, I...!
WHEN YOU WERE GONE, I REALIZED THAT I'D FOUND SOMETHING I NEEDED TO PROTECT.
...SO DON'T EVER LEAVE MY SIDE AGAIN.

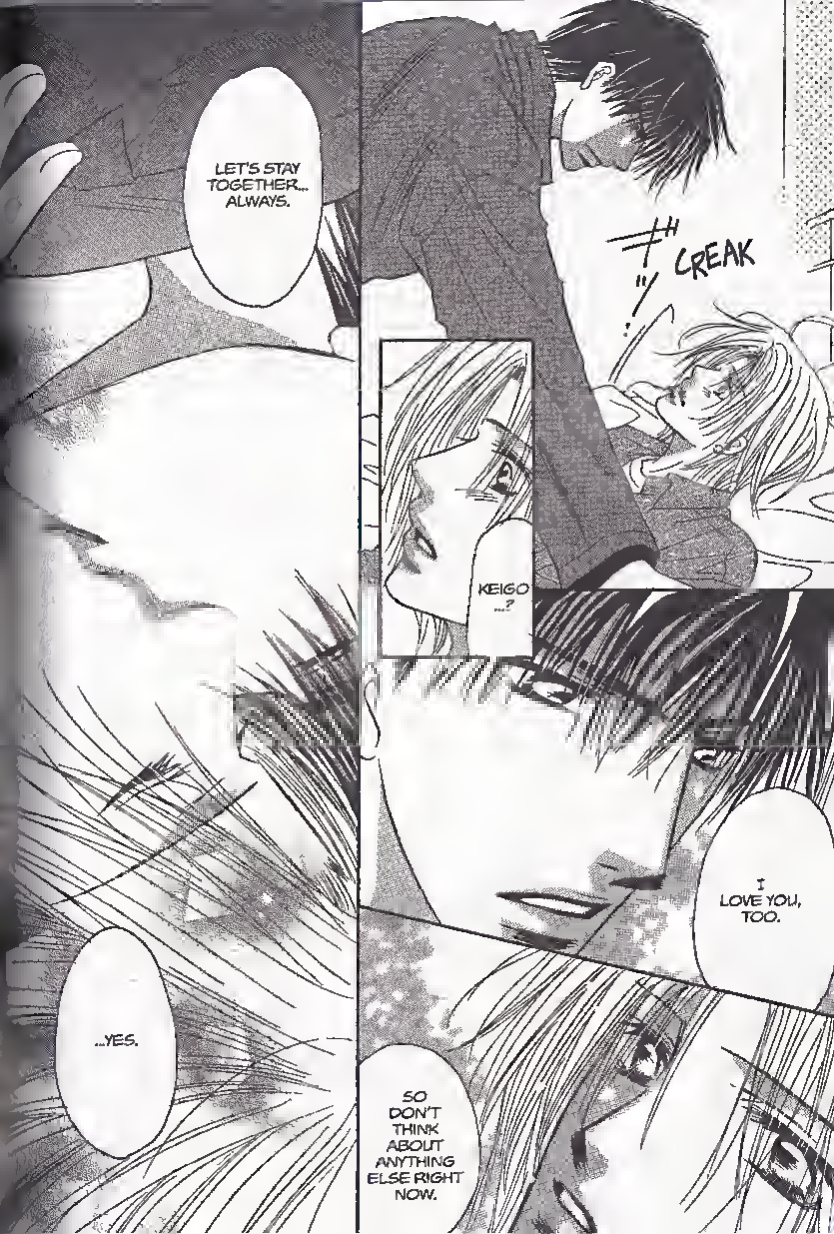
Mission 4

ME...? IN LOVE WITH YOU, KEIGO...?
I CAN HEAR YOUR HEART THUMPING.
YOU CAN'T FEEL SOMETHING LIKE THIS UNLESS YOU'RE ALIVE.
YES, THIS IS WHAT IT IS LIKE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH SOME-ONE.
YOURS IS TOO, KEIGO.
PAT
SO THIS IS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE IN LOVE...
HUG

BUT WHAT A SURPRISE...
I NEVER THOUGHT I STILL HAD SUCH FEELINGS LEFT INSIDE OF ME...
THEN... DOES THAT MEAN YOU'VE FELT THIS FOR SOMEONE ELSE BEFORE, KEIGO?
WELL... YEAH, SURE.
YOU'RE THE FIRST MALE, THOUGH.
I SEE..
WHAT IS IT? YOU JEALOUS OR SOMETHING?
HUH?

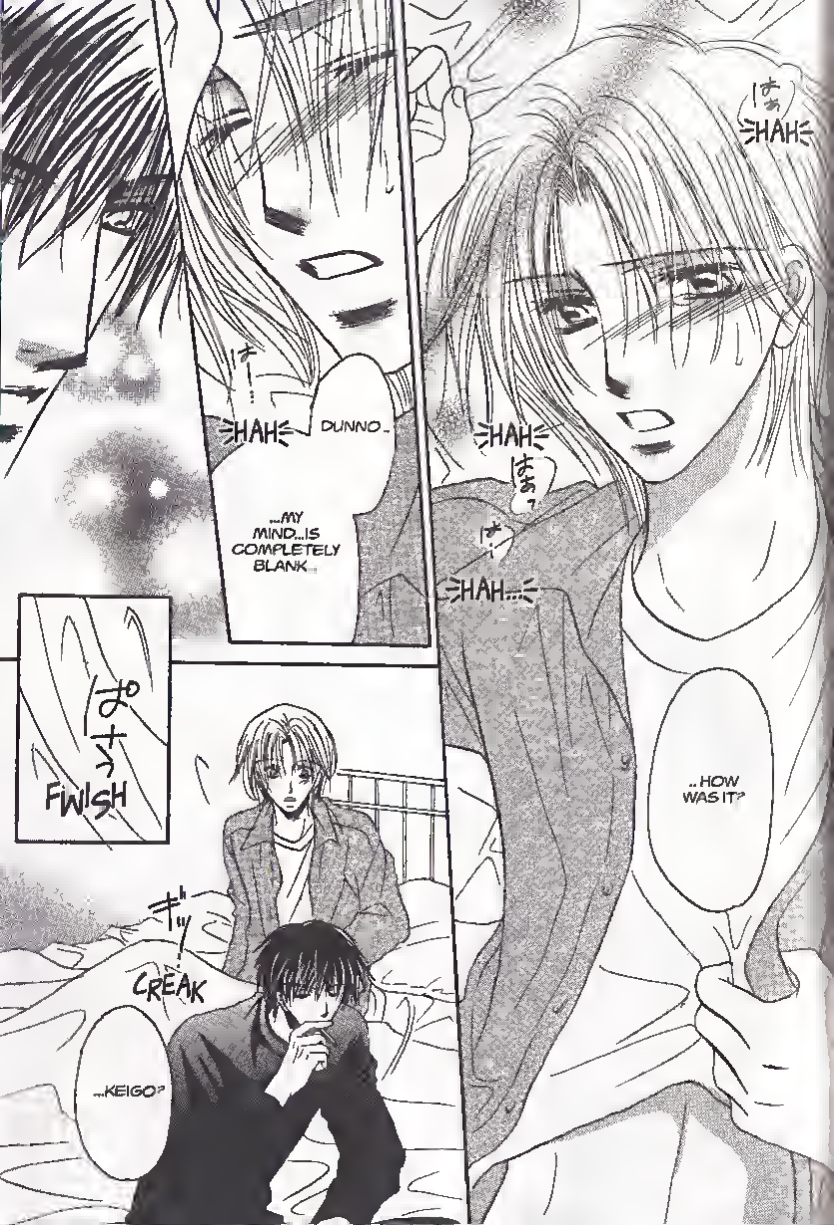
...IS THIS FEELING ALSO A PART OF BEING IN LOVE?
YEAH, I SUPPOSE SO.
CHUCKLE
BUT YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE I'VE EVER FELT SERIOUS ABOUT, EMIYA.
KEIGO..
MM...!

LIFT
TUG
K-KEIGO...
M... MM...
WAIT, KEIGO, I CAN'T BREATHE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD YOUR BREATH, YOU KNOW.
FFWAH
HUH? REALLY?
WHOA!


LET'S STAY TOGETHER... ALWAYS.
CREAK
KEIGO ...?
I LOVE YOU, TOO.
SO DON'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE RIGHT NOW.
...YES.

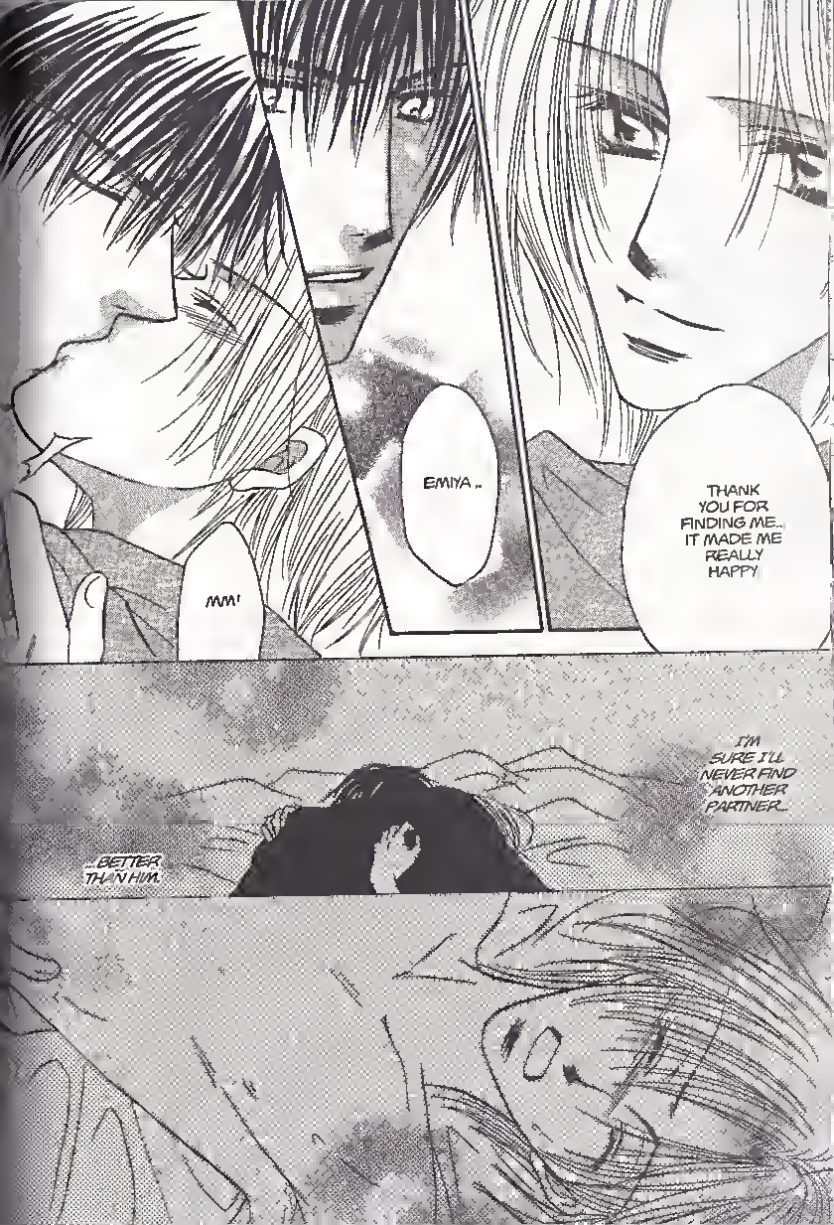
FLINCH
N-NN...
KEIGO...!
WHAT'S WRONG?
I FEEL... FUNNY...
I'LL GET
HAH
IT'S A NATURAL REACTION TO WHAT WE'RE DOING.
JUST LIE STILL LIKE THAT.
...HUH?
WHOOSH
WHAT ARE YOU-OH!
WAI-... KEIGO?!
SUCK

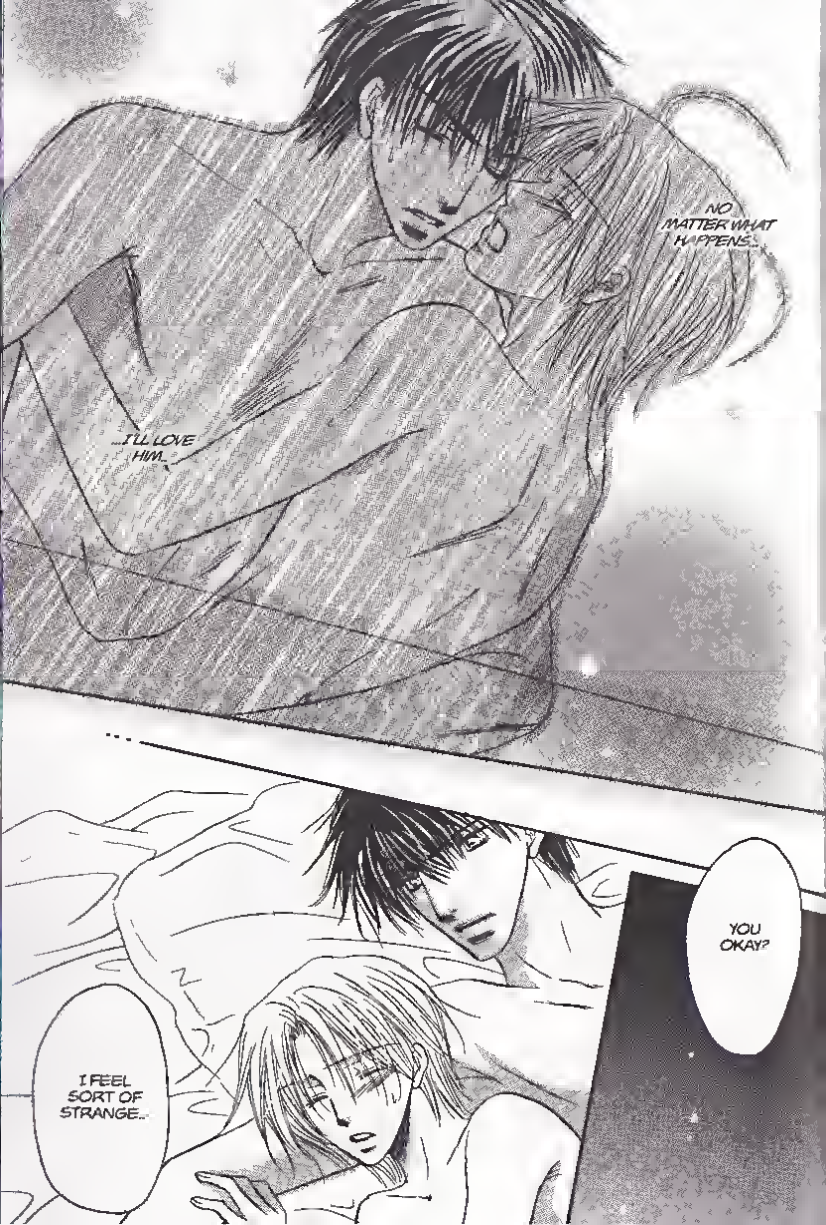
SHIVER
SHIVER
N-...
KEIGO, WHAT IS THIS—? OH!
SUCK
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK. LET IT OUT.
SLURP
NN!
OH...
OHH!!!
TWITCH


HAH
DUNNO...
...MY MIND...IS COMPLETELY BLANK...
HAH
HAH
HAH...
..HOW WAS IT?
FWISH
CREAK
...KEIGO?

"ALL THE WAY"?
SIGH
はぁ
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU?
WELL... I SHOULDN'T GO ALL THE WAY, RIGHT?
IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME AND ALL
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KEIGO?
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND.. BUT YOU CAN DO WHATEVER IT IS YOU WANT TO DO TO ME, KEIGO.
IN OTHER WORDS. WELL...
YOU..
IF YOU DON'T, YOU WON'T GET TO FEEL AS GOOD AS I JUST DID, RIGHT?

THAT'S A RE-LLY SEDUCTIVE PHRASE COMING FROM A NAIVE ONE LIKE YOU...
?
I WON'T STOP NOW EVEN IF YOU ASK ME TO.
WE'VE COME THIS FAR...YOU'RE NOT GOING TO REGRET IT L-TER, RIGHT?
THUD
...I'M NOT SCARED OF ANYTHING IF I'M WITH YOU, KEIGO.


THANK YOU FOR FINDING ME.. IT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY
EMIYA..
MM!
I'M SURE I'LL NEVER FIND ANOTHER PARTNER...
...BETTER THAN HIM.


NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...
...I'LL LOVE HIM...
YOU OKAY?
I FEEL SORT OF STRANGE...

BUT I TOOK CARE TO PREPARE YOU., SO IT DIDN'T HURT THAT MUCH, DID IT?
...
..YEAH
WHOA!
YANK
...HEY, EMIYA...
IN A LITTLE WHILE, LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE.
..WHAT?

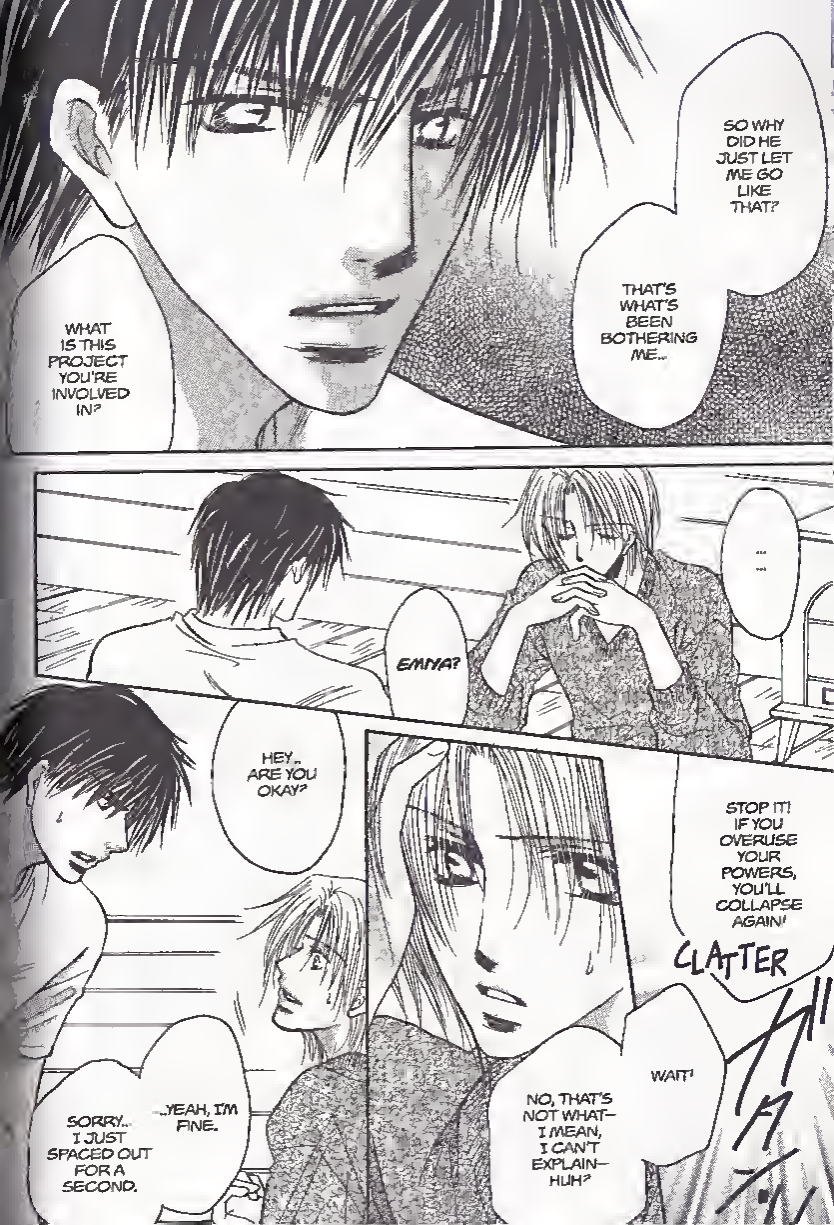
BUT WHERE WILL WE GO...? WHAT ABOUT YOUR DETECTIVE WORK...?
THAT HAMURO GUY AND THOSE OTHERS, THEY KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE NOW.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY COME TO TAKE YOU BACK.
I'VE GOT A BIT SAVED UP FROM MY OTHER LINE OF WORK.
I'M SURE IF I EXPLAIN TO THE OLD MAN, HE'LL SET UP A GOOD HIDING PLACE FOR US SOMEWHERE.
SO LET'S GO...
...SOME PLACE WHERE NO ONE WILL BOTHER US.
...OKAY.

THEN LET'S GET GOING
THIS PLACE...
THIS IS SOME DUMP THAT OLD MAN FOUND FOR US...!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
SOU

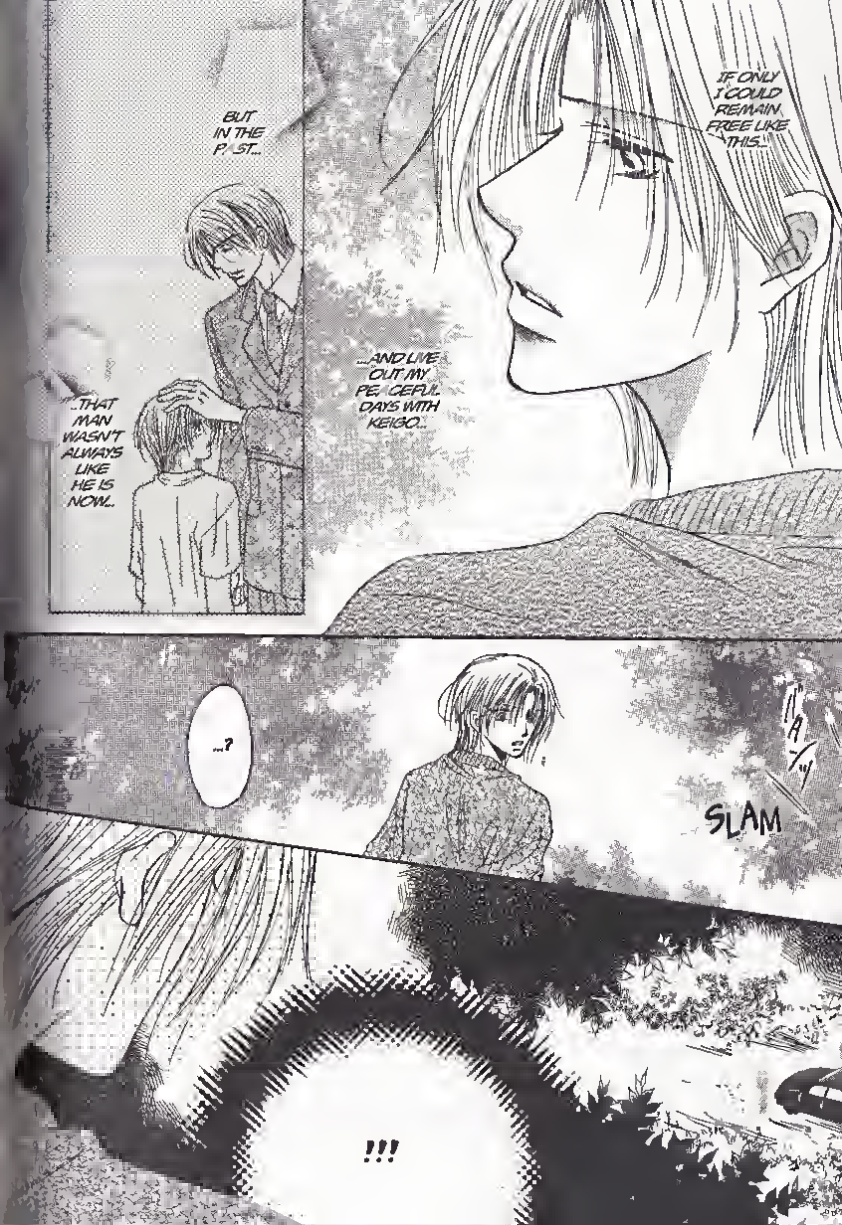
YOU MIGHT FIND IT A LITTLE LACKING IN CONVENIENCES... BUT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN PUT UP WITH IT?
OH WELL...I GUESS IT'LL DO.
OF COURSE
ALTHOUGH THIS PLACE FEELS MORE LIKE AN OUTDOOR SURVIVAL SPOT?
OKAY.. THAT'S GOOD...
LEAVE IT TO ME!
I'VE EVEN LEARNED HOW TO DO A LITTLE HOUSE-WORK. I'LL BE FINE!

HOW IS IT? ARE YOU RECEIVING EMIYA'S LOCATION?
TAK-A TAK
NO PROBLEM, SIR. EVERYTHING'S WORKING PERFECTLY.
..WELL, WELL... WHAT A LONG WAY HE'S RUN TO...
TELL ME AT ONCE IF ANY CHANGE OCCURS.
UNDERSTOOD, SIR.
MR. HAMURO
WHAT IS IT?
FURTHER INVESTIGATION HAS TURNED UP MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THAT DETECTIVE... APPARENTLY, HE'S..
A PROFESSIONAL HITMAN?

NO WONDER HE GOT IN HERE SO EASILY.
SIGH
I SWEAR... IT'S JUST LIKE EMIYA TO CHOOSE HIM. I SUPPOSE WE CAN'T JUST LET THIS MAN ROAM FREE, THEN.
CLAK
WHAT'S WRONG, EMIYA?
THAT PROJECT... IT CAN'T PROCEED WITHOUT ME.


WHAT IS THIS PROJECT YOU'RE INVOLVED IN?
THAT'S WHAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME...
SO WHY DID HE JUST LET ME GO LIKE THAT?
...
...
EMMA?
HEY... ARE YOU OKAY?
STOP IT! IF YOU OVERUSE YOUR POWERS, YOU'LL COLLAPSE AGAIN!
CLATTER
WAIT!
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT— I MEAN, I CAN'T EXPLAIN— HUH?
...YEAH, I'M FINE.
SORRY... I JUST SPACED OUT FOR A SECOND.

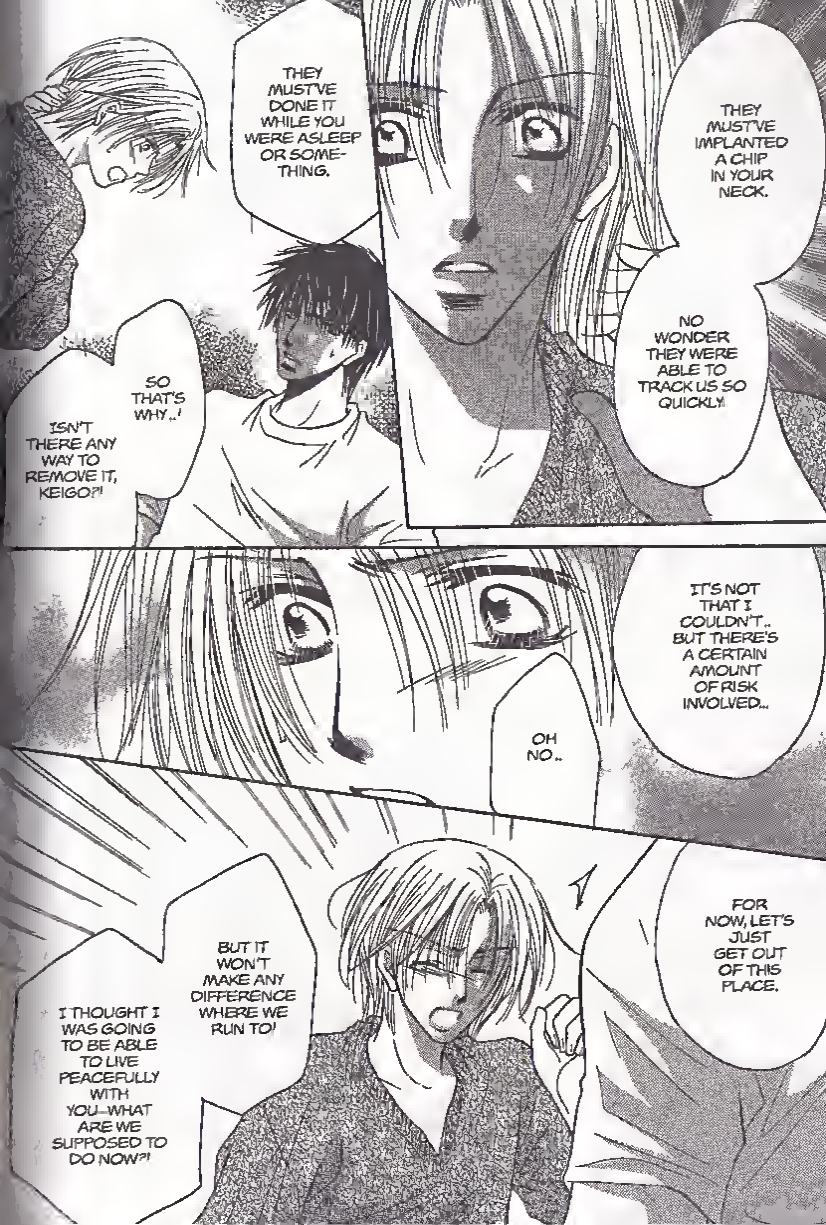
YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT. I'LL DO THAT.
CLATTER
ANYWAY, WE'RE SAFE HERE. DON'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE RIGHT NOW.
I KNOW, WHY DON'T YOU GO FOR A LITTLE WALK TO CLEAR YOUR HEAD?
CHIRP CHIRP
...


IF ONLY I COULD REMAIN FREE LIKE THIS...
...AND LIVE OUT MY PEACEFUL DAYS WITH KEIGO...
BUT IN THE PAST...
...THAT MAN WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE HE IS NOW...
...?
SLAM
!!!

BAM
KEIGO!
WHAT?! BUT HOW—?!
THAT WAS PRETTY QUICK. HOW WAS—
?!
HUG

KEIGO...
HOW'D THEY FIND US SO QUICKLY..?
JUST WHAT KIND OF SURVEILLANCE NET DO THEY HAVE?
I SEE... SO THIS PLACE IS NO GOOD ANYMORE.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU? I'LL PROTECT YOU, NO MATTER WHAT.
BUT...!
DON'T YOU WORRY.

THUMP
GOT THAT? SO LET'S RELAX AND THINK.
OKAY...
EMIYA, THAT SCAR ON YOUR NECK...!
FWSH
HUH...? WHAT'S WRONG?
HOW LONG HAVE YOU HAD IT?!

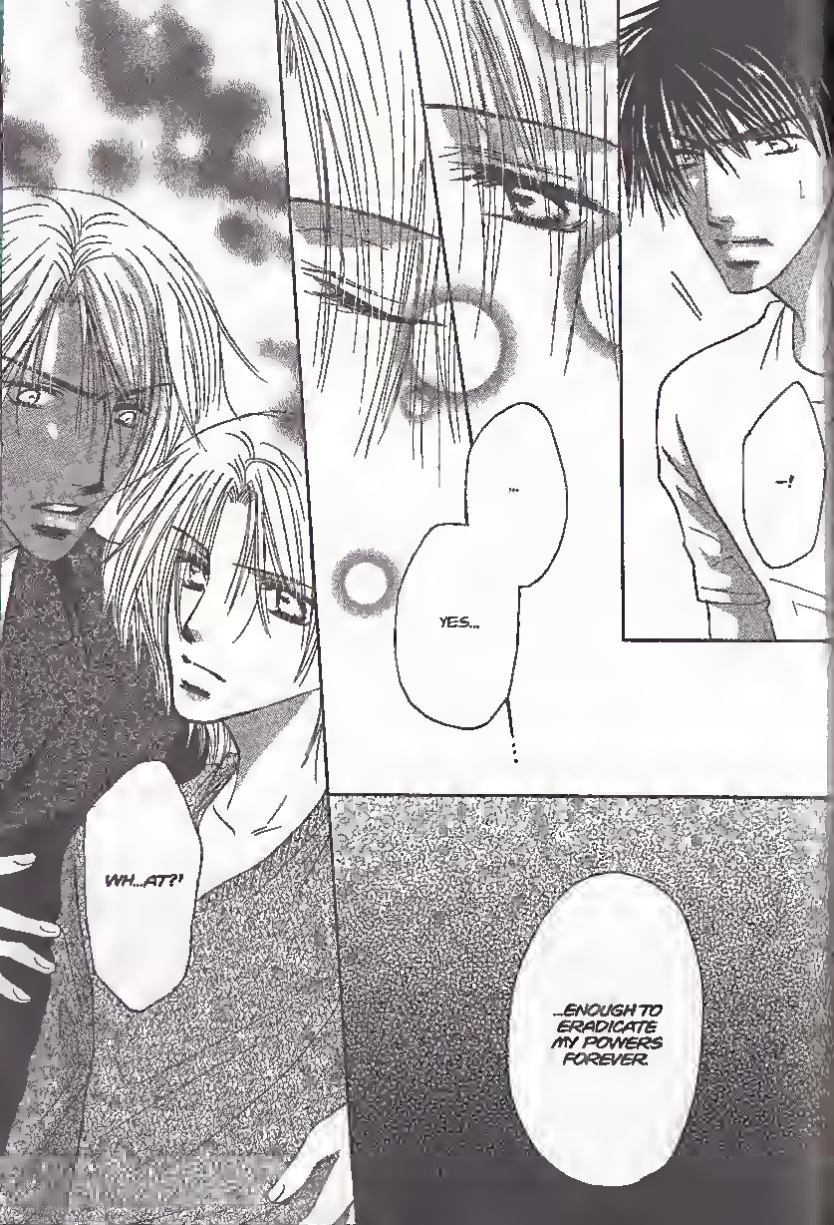

THEY MUST'VE DONE IT WHILE YOU WERE ASLEEP OR SOMETHING.
THEY MUST'VE IMPLANTED A CHIP IN YOUR NECK.
NO WONDER THEY WERE ABLE TO TRACK US SO QUICKLY!
SO THAT'S WHY..!
ISN'T THERE ANY WAY TO REMOVE IT, KEIGO?!
IT'S NOT THAT I COULDN'T.. BUT THERE'S A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF RISK INVOLVED..
OH NO..
FOR NOW, LET'S JUST GET OUT OF THIS PLACE.
BUT IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE WHERE WE RUN TO!
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BE ABLE TO LIVE PEACEFULLY WITH YOU--WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?!

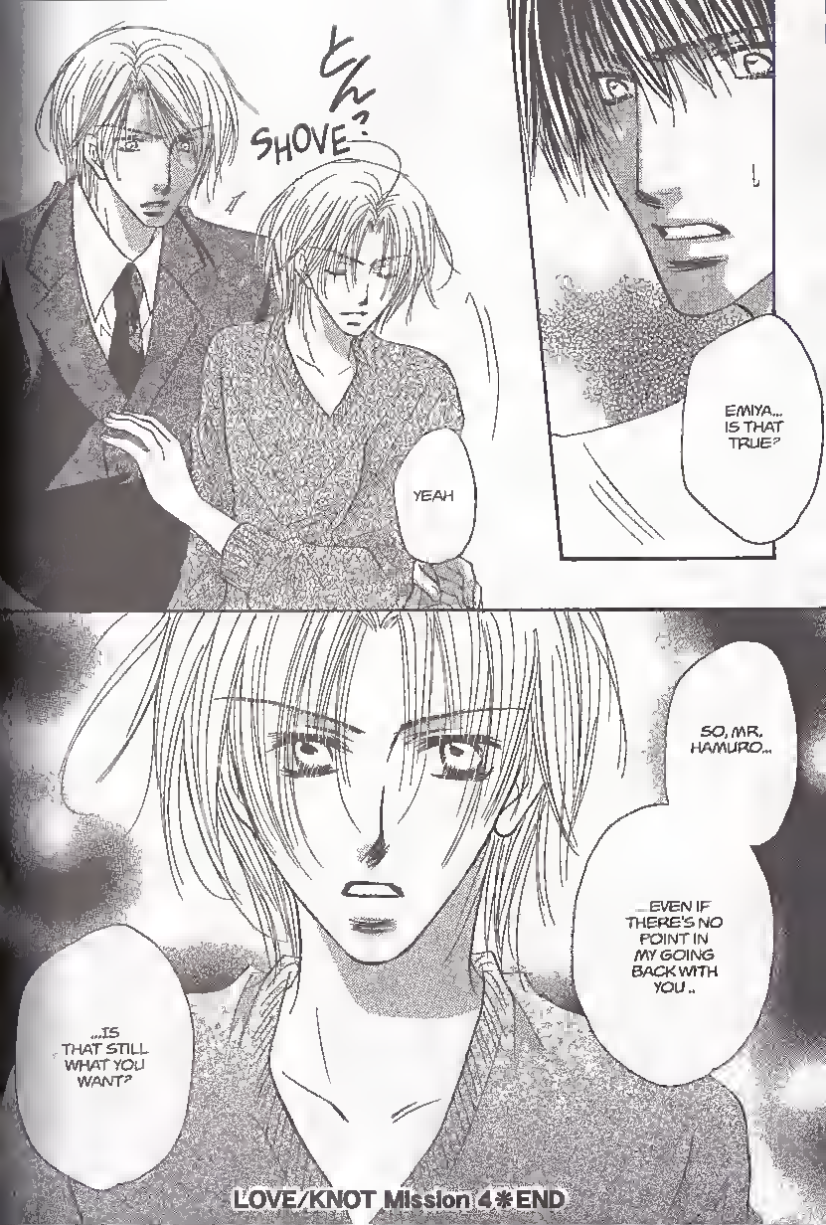
CREAK
ギィ!!
EVERYTHING WILL BE RESOLVED IF YOU JUST COME BACK WITH ME...
...ISN'T THAT RIGHT, EMIYA?
YOU! YOU AND YOUR DIRTY TRICKS—
FINE WORDS, COMING FROM A THIEF WHO'S STOLEN WHAT'S MINE.
ALL I DID WAS TO TAKE SOME PRECAUTION. I COULDN'T LEAVE EMIYA IN THE HANDS OF A DANGEROUS MAN LIKE YOU.
WHAT DID YOU SAY...?

NOW, HAND HIM OVER TO ME.
...!
KEIGO, WAIT.
I'LL GO BACK WITH HIM.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, EMIYA?!
CHK

HE KNOWS EVERY-THING. HE SEES EVERY-THING.
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.
THEN WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING ALL THIS TIME?!
WAS IT ALL FOR NOTHING, EMIYA?!
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE, KEIGO.
BECAUSE I MET YOU, I WAS ABLE TO KNOW THE JOY OF LOVING SOMEONE.
BUT I GUESS A NORMAL LIFE WASN'T MEANT FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME, AFTER ALL.

I'M SORRY FOR GETTING YOU INVOLVED IN ALL THIS.
EMIYA...
YANK
I SEE YOU FINALLY UNDERSTAND THAT THE MOST COMFORTABLE PLACE FOR YOU IS BY MY SIDE.
SO ARE YOU SATISFIED NOW? DID YOU LIVE OUT YOUR DREAMS?


...
YES...
WH...AT?!
...ENOUGH TO ERADICATE MY POWERS FOREVER.



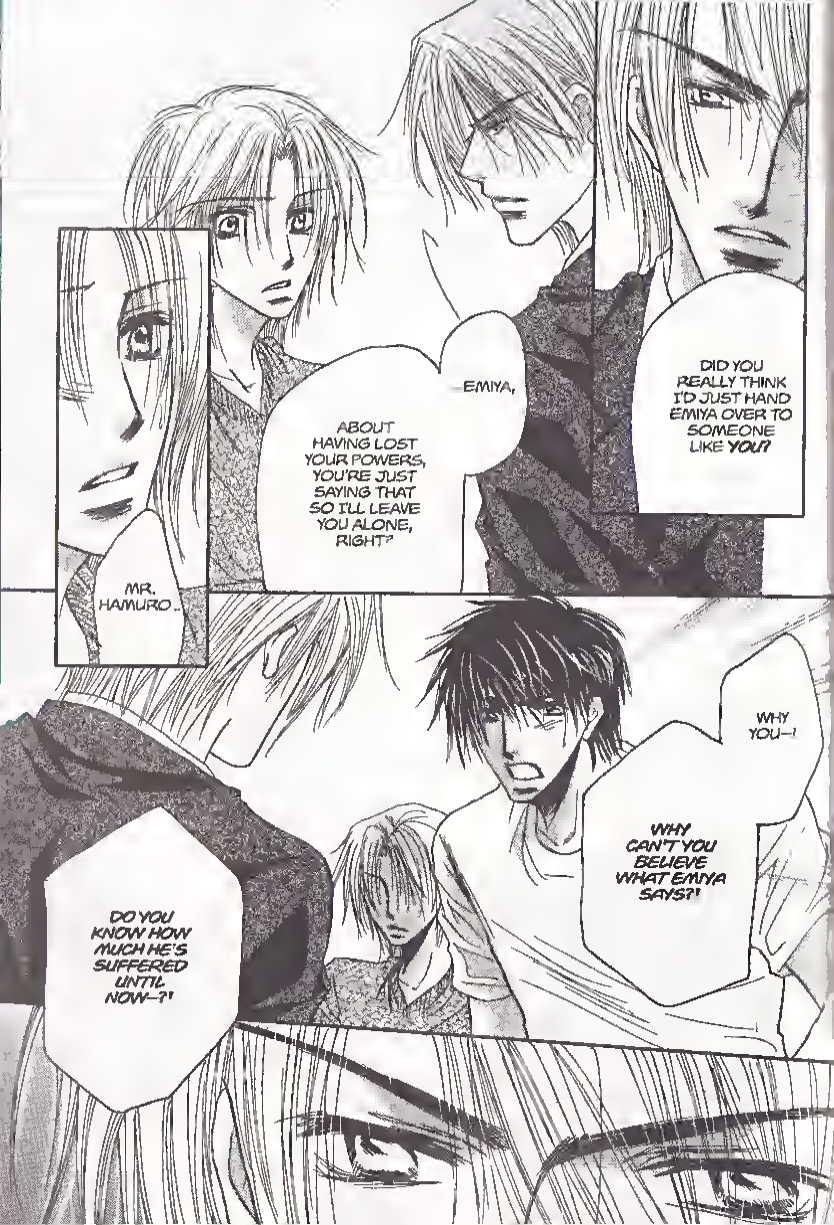
LOVE/KNOT Mission 4 ✱ END

LOVE/KNOT
Mission 5

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY, EMIYA?
THIS MUST BE A JOKE!
IT'S NO JOKE.
THAT CAN'T BE..!
I SAID I CAN NO LONGER USE MY POWERS.

I COULDN'T EVEN PREDICT THAT YOU'D BE COMING HERE, MR. HAMURO.
IF I COULD HAVE, I WOULD'VE BEEN LONG GONE, WITH KEIGO.
WH-...
I ONLY REALIZED IT MYSELF JUST MOMENTS AGO.
I COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING, NO MATTER HOW HARD I CONCENTRATED.
...MR. HAMURO, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN BY MY SIDE EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD.
IN THAT OPPRESSIVE, CLOSED ENVIRONMENT, YOU WERE THE ONE PERSON I COULD TRUST AND DEPEND ON.

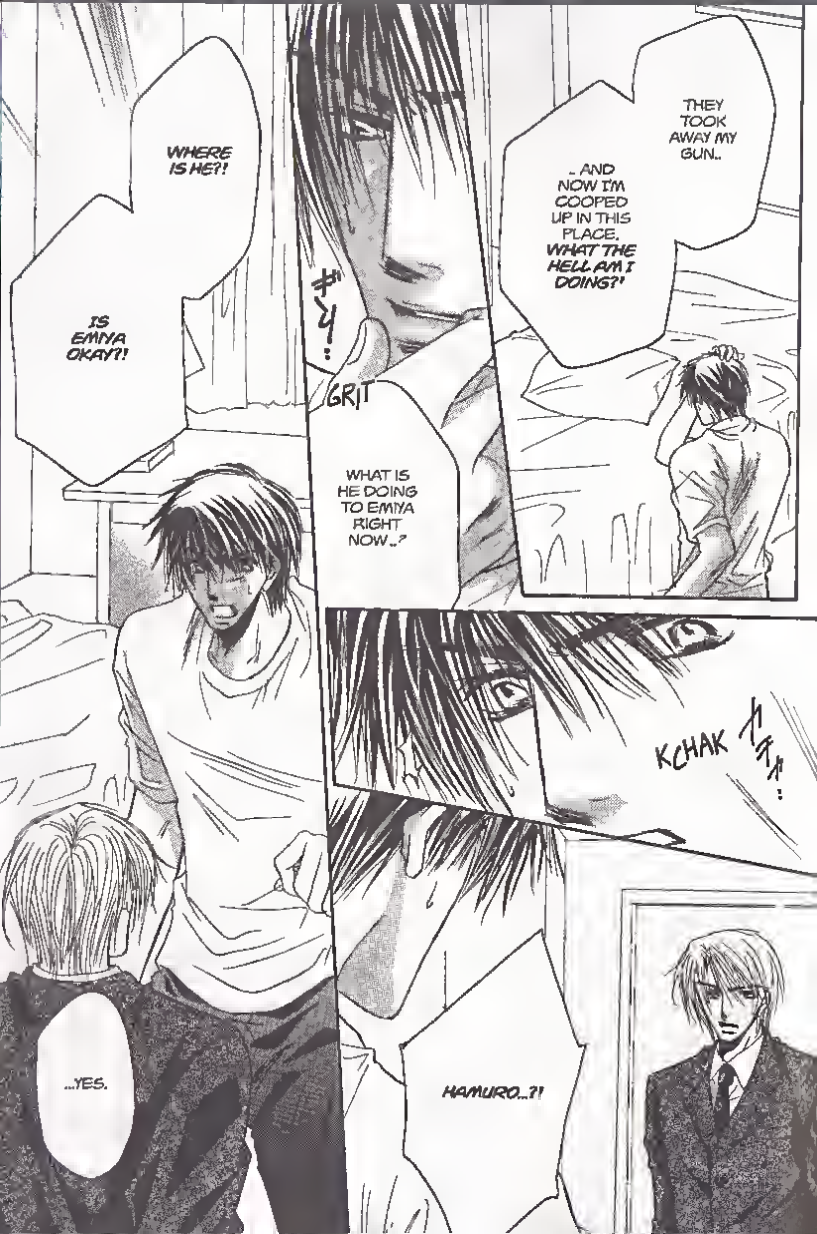
THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I CURSED THIS POWER I WAS BORN WITH...
..BUT AS LONG AS IT WAS USEFUL TO YOU, I WAS HAPPY. THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVED IN, THAT'S WHY I STAYED WITH YOU.
BUT MR HAMURO..I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WERE THE KIND OF MAN WHO'D GO THIS FAR TO FURTHER YOUR OWN ENDS.
—!
DOES BEING A GOVERNMENT HOT-SHOT MEAN YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT?
NICE IDEA YOU CAME UP WITH, IMPLANTING A CHIP IN EMIYA'S NECK...


DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D JUST HAND EMIYA OVER TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU?
EMIYA,
ABOUT HAVING LOST YOUR POWERS, YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT SO I'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE, RIGHT?
MR. HAMURO..
WHY YOU--!
WHY CAN'T YOU BELIEVE WHAT EMIYA SAYS?!
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH HE'S SUFFERED UNTIL NOW--?!

MR. HAMURO..
IF YOU REALLY DON'T BELIEVE ME, THEN TEST ME RIGHT NOW.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T PUT HIM UP TO THIS?
I'VE BEEN RESEARCHING EMIYA'S ABILITIES FOR MANY YEARS NOW...
..BUT A SITUATION LIKE THIS HAS NEVER ARISEN.
I DON'T CARE WHAT EMIYA SAYS! I'M NOT LEAVING HIM ALONE!
I'M NOT LEAVING HIS SIDE!
KEIGO..

...FINE.
I HAVEN'T MUCH TIME
HE BOOKED A HOTEL NEARBY, SO LET'S MOVE THERE FOR THE MOMENT. WE'LL DO THE TEST THERE.
...WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

MR. HAMURO...
...WHAT'S GOING ON?!
THIS... THIS CAN'T BE...!
BAM
UGH... DAMMIT!
EMIYA...


THEY TOOK AWAY MY GUN..
..AND NOW I'M COOPED UP IN THIS PLACE. WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?!
GRIT
WHAT IS HE DOING TO EMIYA RIGHT NOW..?
WHERE IS HE?!
IS EMIYA OKAY?!
KCHAK
HAMURO..?!
..YES.

WE'VE CONCLUDED THE BASIC TEST RUNS... HE'S RESTING IN HIS ROOM RIGHT NOW.
..SO? HOW'D IT GO?
HE FAILED EVERYTHING.. EVEN THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL TESTS.
HIS BRAIN WAVES ARE NOW NO DIFFERENT FROM A REGULAR PERSON'S.
SO THAT MEANS. HE'S REALLY—
THUD
ドン…
WHAT DID YOU DO TO EMIYA?

UNLIKE THE OPPRESSIVE IMPRISONMENT YOU HAD HIM UNDER...
...I TREATED HIM LIKE A NORMAL HUMAN BEING
NOTHING, REALLY. WHY?
ALL I DID WAS TREAT HIM NATURALLY.
..NATURALLY... EH?
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU DOING WITH EMIYA?
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW?
HMM.. SO EMIYA HASN'T TOLD YOU ANYTHING SPECIFIC...?
I'VE BEEN WITH HIM LONG ENOUGH.
I THINK I'VE EARNED THE RIGHT TO KNOW THAT MUCH.

YOU ALREADY KNOW EMIYA POSSESSES PRESENTIENT ABILITIES, REMOTE VIEWING, AND OTHER EXTRAORDINARY MENTAL POWERS, CORRECT?
..YEAH.
..FINE.
MY AIM WAS TO DRAW OUT EMIYA'S POWERS TO THEIR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL, AND THEN EXTRACTING HIS DNA...
IN ORDER TO SUPPLY SAMPLES TO VARIOUS INTERESTED FOREIGN PARTIES FOR RESEARCH OVERSEAS...
THE PROJECT WAS ALMOST COMPLETE... BUT THAT'S WHEN EMIYA ESCAPED.
WHA-?..

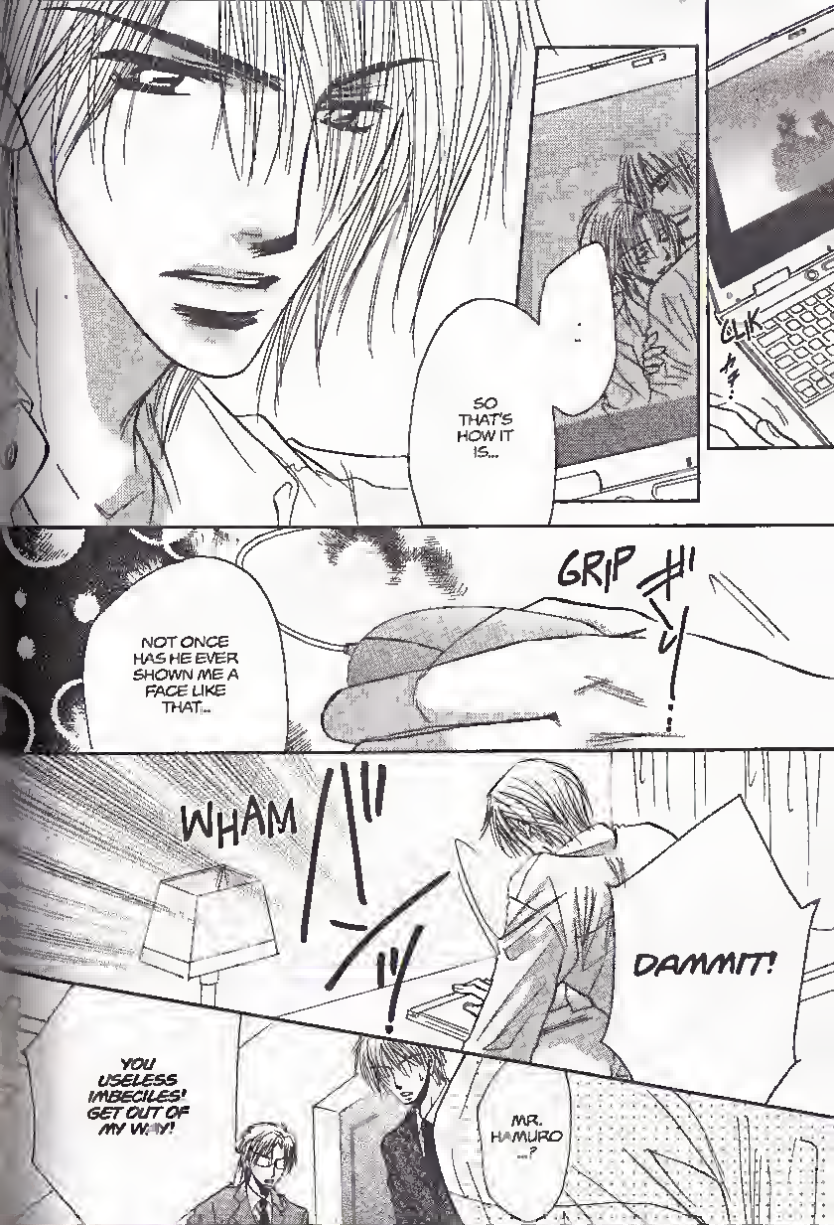
GRAB
IS THAT WHAT YOU ROBBED EMIYA OF HIS FREEDOM FOR. ?!
HOW CAN YOU STILL CALL YOURSELF HUMAN?!
THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROJECT COULD HAVE HELPED PREVENT DISASTERS AND TERRORIST PLOTS BEFORE THEY EVEN HAPPENED
OF COURSE, THE FLIP SIDE WOULD'VE BEEN THAT THE POWERS COULD ALSO BE USED FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES.
REGARDLESS, WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU GOT TO ACT SO RIGHTEOUSLY INDIGNANT? YOU, WHOSE JOB HAS BEEN TO TAKE OTHER PEOPLES' LIVES?
THWAP

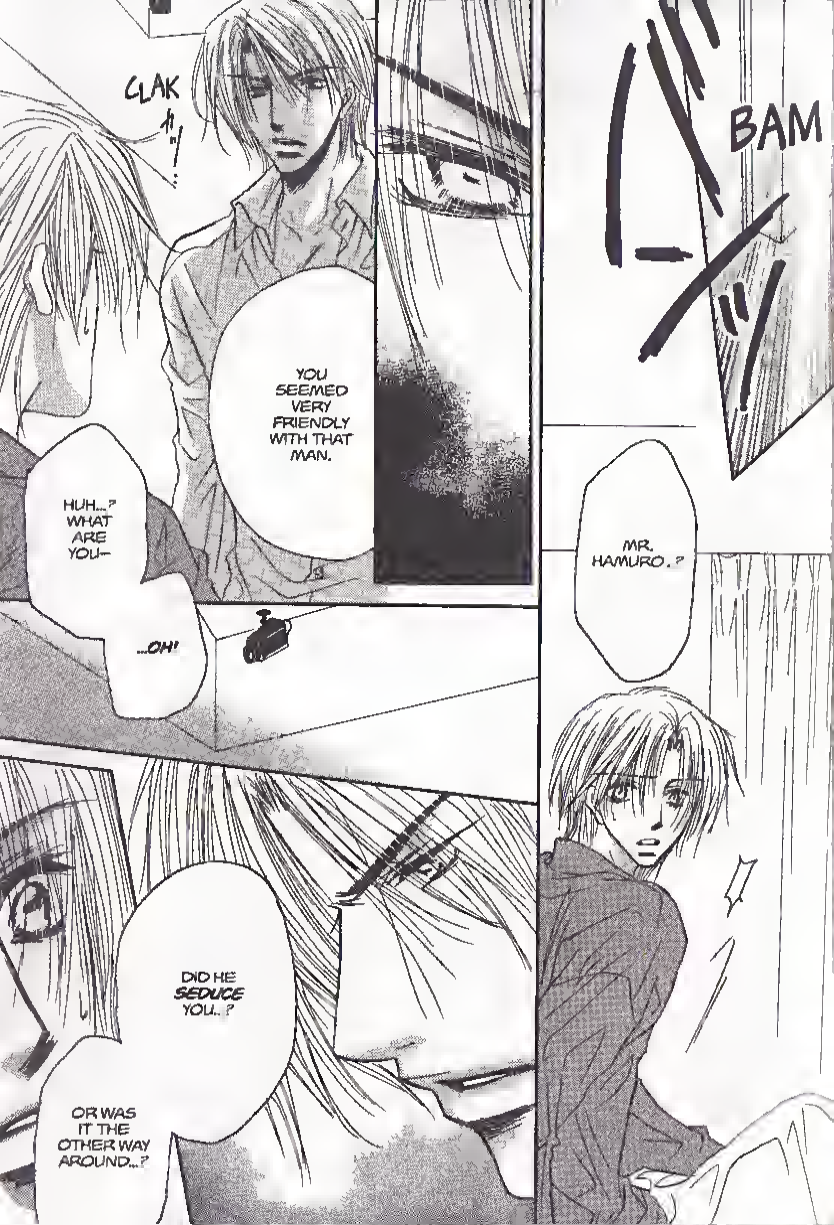
ANYWAY... WE'LL TRY ANOTHER BATCH OF TESTS TOMORROW.
YOU SLEEP HERE AND DO SOME SOUL-SEARCHING TONIGHT.
THUMP
SHOULDN'T YOU BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR OWN WELFARE THAN EMIYA'S?
EMIYA..
CLAK
HUP!

KEIGO?!
SHH!
KEIGO... I WONDER IF HE'S OKAY... I HOPE HE'S NOT BEING MISTREATED...
WITHOUT MY POWERS, I CAN'T EVEN TELL IF HE'S SAFE OR NOT...
CLATTER!

I STILL CAN'T STAY TOO LONG, THOUGH. BUT I SET UP A LITTLE DIVERSION.
SO HE'S ASLEEP?
HOW ANALOG!
SNEAKING OUT WAS A PIECE OF CAKE
WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM?
NO WAY
THERE ARE GUARDS! HOW DID YOU--?
THAT JERK TOLD ME...
..HOW HE'S BEEN USING YOU FOR A MONEY-MAKING SCHEME.
... YOU MUST HAVE SUFFERED A LOT UNTIL NOW...

BUT NOW THAT THEY KNOW YOU'VE LOST YOUR POWERS, YOU'RE AS GOOD AS FREE.
EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN AFTER THIS, BUT IF WORSE COMES TO WORSE WE CAN ALWAYS RUN AWAY AGAIN..
...AND THIS TIME, LET'S BE HAPPY TOGETHER FOR SURE.
..OKAY?
KEIGO
YES..


SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...
CLIK
NOT ONCE HAS HE EVER SHOWN ME A FACE LIKE THAT...
GRIP
WHAM
DAMMIT!
YOU USELESS IMBECILES! GET OUT OF MY WAY!
MR. HAMURO ...?


BAM
MR. HAMURO..?
CLAK
YOU SEEMED VERY FRIENDLY WITH THAT MAN.
HUH...? WHAT ARE YOU-
...OH!
DID HE SEDUCE YOU..?
OR WAS IT THE OTHER WAY AROUND..?

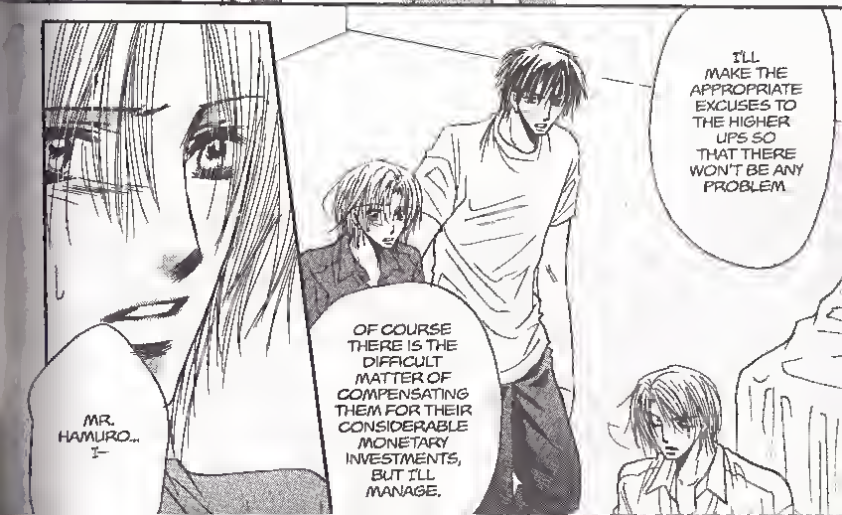
STO-...
THUD
WHA-.
WAIT! MR. HAMURO...?!
WITH A MAN LIKE HIM, OF ALL PEOPLE...!
EVEN IF YOU'VE LOST YOUR POWERS, I WON'T LET YOU GO!
YOU'RE MINE, EMYA!
FUMBLE
STO-...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?!
GRAB
STAYING PURE AND UNSULLIED, ALWAYS AT MY SIDE—THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN YOUR GREATEST HAPPINESS—

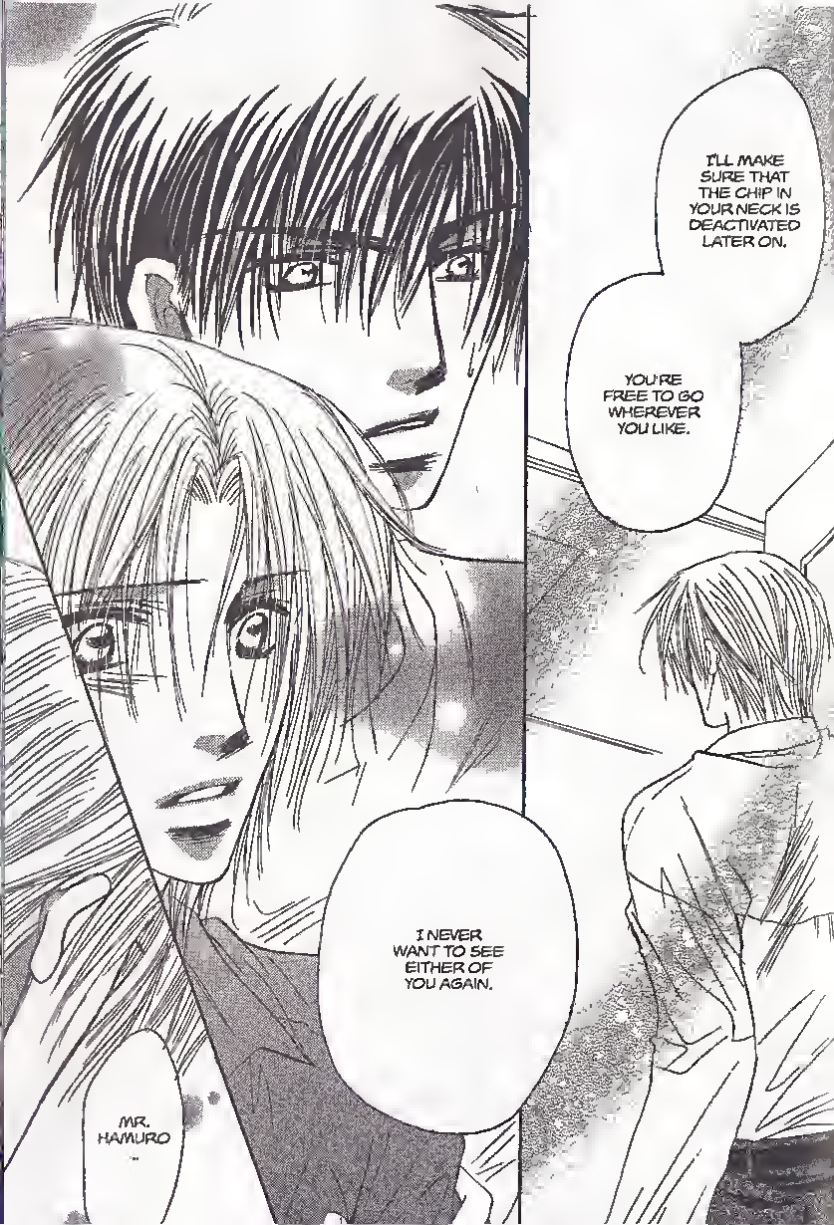
MR. HAMURO ..IT HURTS ..!
KEIGO...!
NO! DON'T...!
EMI_YA?
CREAK
DRIP
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU CRY BEFORE ..NOT ONCE ..
SO THIS IS HOW DEEPLY YOU LOVE THAT MAN ..

EMIYA...?! WHY DID YOU CRY OUT JUST NOW?!
SLAM
KEIGO... WHY DID YOU COME BACK?!
NOW YOU'LL--!
HAMURO... HOW DARE YOU...!
CREAK
YANK
MR. HAMURO...?!

FLING
..HUH..?
NOW THAT YOU'VE FALLEN FOR SUCH A MAN...
...AND HAVE BECOME JUST ANOTHER ORDINARY PERSON TO BOOT, I HAVE NO MORE USE FOR YOU.
DO AS YOU PLEASE.
MR. HAMURO..?

THIS PROJECT IS A FAILURE.
I SUPPOSE I'VE BEEN MISINTERPRETING MY AFFECTION FOR YOU, AND THE TRUE EMOTION BEHIND IT.
THEN... YOU MEAN.. WE'RE..?


I'LL MAKE THE APPROPRIATE EXCUSES TO THE HIGHER UPS SO THAT THERE WON'T BE ANY PROBLEM.
OF COURSE THERE IS THE DIFFICULT MATTER OF COMPENSATING THEM FOR THEIR CONSIDERABLE MONETARY INVESTMENTS, BUT I'LL MANAGE.
MR. HAMURO.. I—

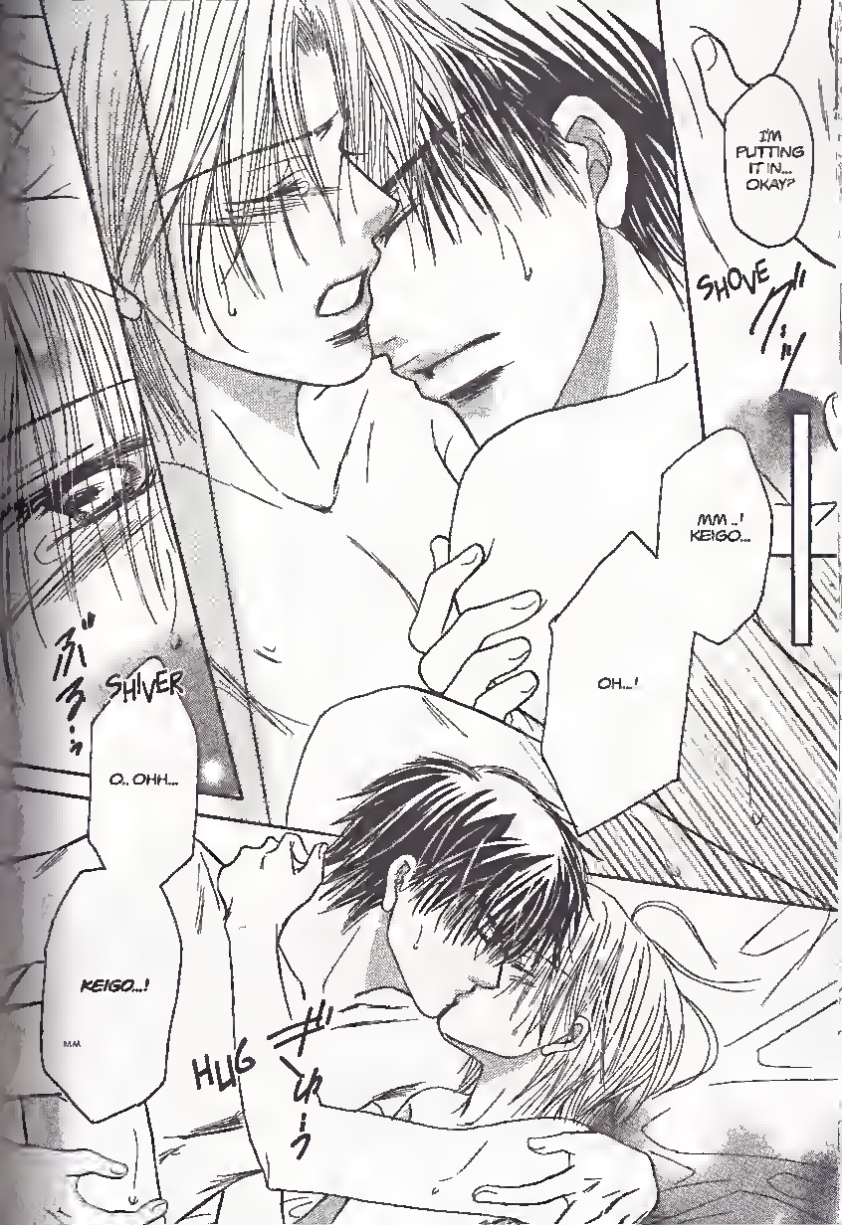

I'LL MAKE SURE THAT THE CHIP IN YOUR NECK IS DEACTIVATED LATER ON.
YOU'RE FREE TO GO WHEREVER YOU LIKE.
I NEVER WANT TO SEE EITHER OF YOU AGAIN.
MR. HAMURO

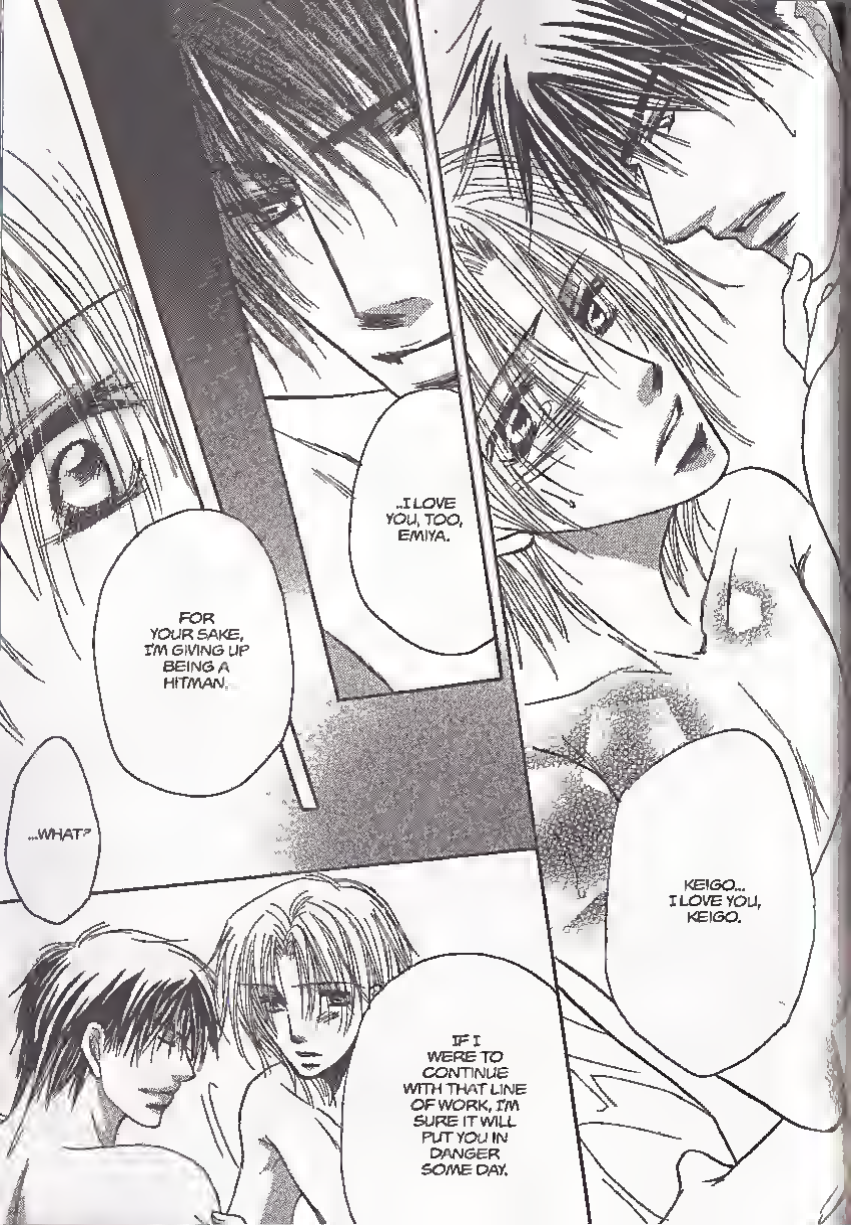
KEIGO...
SO THIS REALLY MEANS... I'M...
YEAH...
NOW YOU'RE TRULY FREE.

CREAK
ギィ
MM.. OH.
KEIGO..!
NN...
KISS
チュ
SHUFF
はぁ。
KEIGO... WE CAN'T... THERE'S A CAMERA UP TH-
MMPH!
IT'S ALRIGHT. I'M SURE THEY'VE SHUT IT OFF ALREADY ON THEIR END.

SWISH
BESIDES.. I CAN'T HOLD BACK ANYMORE.
BA-BUMP
CREAK
THIS IS STILL ONLY YOUR SECOND TIME, SO I GUESS I'D BETTER BE GENTLE..
...EMIYA?
WHAT YOU DID FOR ME THE OTHER TIME.. I WANT TO DO IT FOR YOU, TOO, KEIGO..
NNGH..
SUCK
H-HEY?!

PUSH
SHIVER
OH... SORRY... I TRIED TO IMITATE YOU, BUT... I WASN'T ANY GOOD, HUH?
EMIYA... IT'S OKAY. THAT'S ENOUGH.
NO, QUITE THE OPPOSITE IN FACT...
IT WAS TOO GOOD
FOR NOW, JUST LET ME TAKE THE LEAD... OKAY?
THUD!
KEIGO...
TWITCH
TWITCH
OH!
KISS
UHH...!
NOT THERE—
FLINCH
YANK


I'M PUTTING IT IN... OKAY?
SHOVE
MM..! KEIGO...
OH...!
SHIVER
O..OHH...
KEIGO...!
HUG


KEIGO... I LOVE YOU, KEIGO.
IF I WERE TO CONTINUE WITH THAT LINE OF WORK, I'M SURE IT WILL PUT YOU IN DANGER SOME DAY.
...WHAT?
FOR YOUR SAKE, I'M GIVING UP BEING A HITMAN.
..I LOVE YOU, TOO, EMIYA.

LOVE/KNOT Mission 5*END

LOVE/KNOT+
I PLACED A BET IN THE HORSE RACES AGAIN!
HORSE RACES...?
WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE LOOKING AT, KEIGO?
JUST YOU WAIT, EMIYA. IF I WIN, I'LL TREAT YOU TO BBQ TONIGHT.
KEEP IT TO A MINIMUM, OKAY?
I KNOW, I KNOW.
YOU'RE NOT ALL THAT LUCKY, KEIGO.
GO, INSTANT FORTUNE!

BUT I'VE JUST GOT THIS FEELING THAT I'M GONNA WIN THIS TIME FOR SURE!
THUD
.WHAT'S WITH ALL THOSE DIFFICULT-LOOKING BOOKS YOU'VE GOT?
HUH?
WAIT, THESE ARE ALL FOREIGN!!!
YEAH, SO WHAT?
I WENT TO THE LIBRARY THEY HAD SO MANY BOOKS I'D NEVER READ BEFORE I WAS SOOO HAPPY!
THAT'S WHY I BORROWED ALL THESE! ♥
ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU CAN READ THIS STUFF?
"SO WHAT?"

I WOULDN'T HAVE BORROWED THEM IF I COULDN'T!
I'M FLUENT IN ABOUT FIVE LANGUAGES.
I SEE
CASUAL
ENGLISH GERMAN FRENCH ITALIAN AND HANGUL
IF I EVER TRAVEL OVERSEAS, I'LL NEVER NEED A TRANSLATOR WITH THIS GUY ALONG..
OOH, LOOK AT THE TV! IT LOOKS LIKE THE RACE IS STARTING.
REALLY?!
WHSH
THIS ONE LOOKS FASTER TO ME..
NUMBER 2
WHAT?! NO WAY...HE'S THE LEAST FAVORITE!
WHICH HORSE DID YOU BET ON?
OKAY, LET'S GO! COME ON, WINNER! HOPE DADDY PICKED YOU!

WHATEVER. I'M NOT REALLY INTERESTED.
RUN
GO, GOOOO!!!
MRGH!
YOU'RE AN AMATEUR, TOO, KEIGO...
HEH HEH?
THAT'S AN AMATEUR FOR YOU
WHAT THE—
I TOLD YOU SO.
SEE? YOU LOST.
THE HORSE YOU CHOSE HIT THE JACKPOT..
YEAH, I KNOW... BUT...
REALLY?!

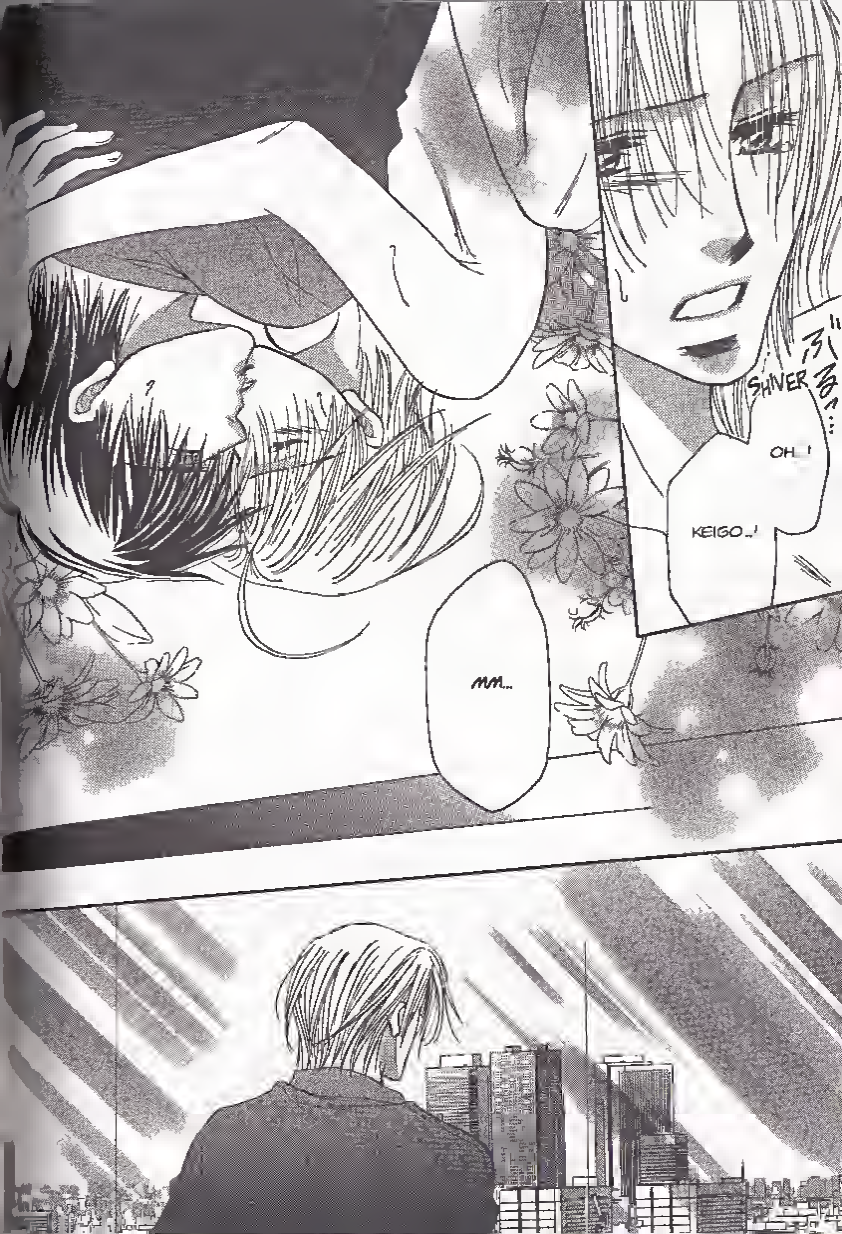
OHHH...IF ONLY I'D BET ON THAT ONE, I'D BE ROLLING IN MILLIONS RIGHT NOW...
TELL ME IT'S NOT TRUE!
AARGH!
あぁっ
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU WERE WINNING LEFT AND RIGHT WITH THE PRIZE DRAWINGS AND SLOTS THE OTHER TIME.
COULD IT BE THAT MAYBE YOU'RE GETTING SOME OF YOUR OLD FORECASTING POWERS BACK?
EH?
IT COULDN'T BE! IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE THE SAME THING. I'M SURE IT'S ALL JUST A COINCIDENCE!
ARE YOU SURE?
ARE YOU DOUBTING MY WORD, KEIGO...?
NO, NO! NOT AT ALL!
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE TO LIE, EMIYA!

GAMBLING, DETECTIVE WORK...YOU HAVE NO INSTINCT FOR EITHER OF THEM, DO YOU, KEIGO?
HONEST
URK!
KEIGO...
WHAT DID YOU SAY, YOU LITTLE RUNT?!
LUNGE
WHOA!
THEN HOW'S THIS?!
W-WAIT, KEIGO!
TICKLE
TICKLE
HAHAHA! N-NO FAIR!
KISS
OW, OW, YOU'RE HURTING ME!

YOU'RE MUCH CUTER WHEN YOU'RE LAUGHING LIKE THAT, EMIYA.
KEIGO.
MM..
OH..!
BUT KEIGO, I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF READING-
YOU CAN READ LATER.
TWITCH !!
OH!

I SEE YOUR SENSES HAVEN'T DULLED IN THIS REGARD.
STUPID...
NN!
...
HEY, HOW'D YOU GET THAT? ON YOUR HAND?
...HUH?
OH, THIS...I SCRAPED MY HAND WHEN I WAS CLEANING THE WALLS EARLIER...
AGAIN...?
YOU'RE SUCH A KLUTZ..
CHUCKLE
BUT THAT'S WHAT REALLY GIVES YOU THAT HUMAN QUALITY, EMIYA.

FLINCH
LICK
..EEP!
...DOES IT STING?
KISS
WHA-...
KEIGO?!
NO..
BUT I WISH YOU'D.. YOU KNOW.. SOMEWHERE ELSE.
PUSH
UNNH...!
OH...!


SHIVER
OH..!
KEIGO..!
MM...

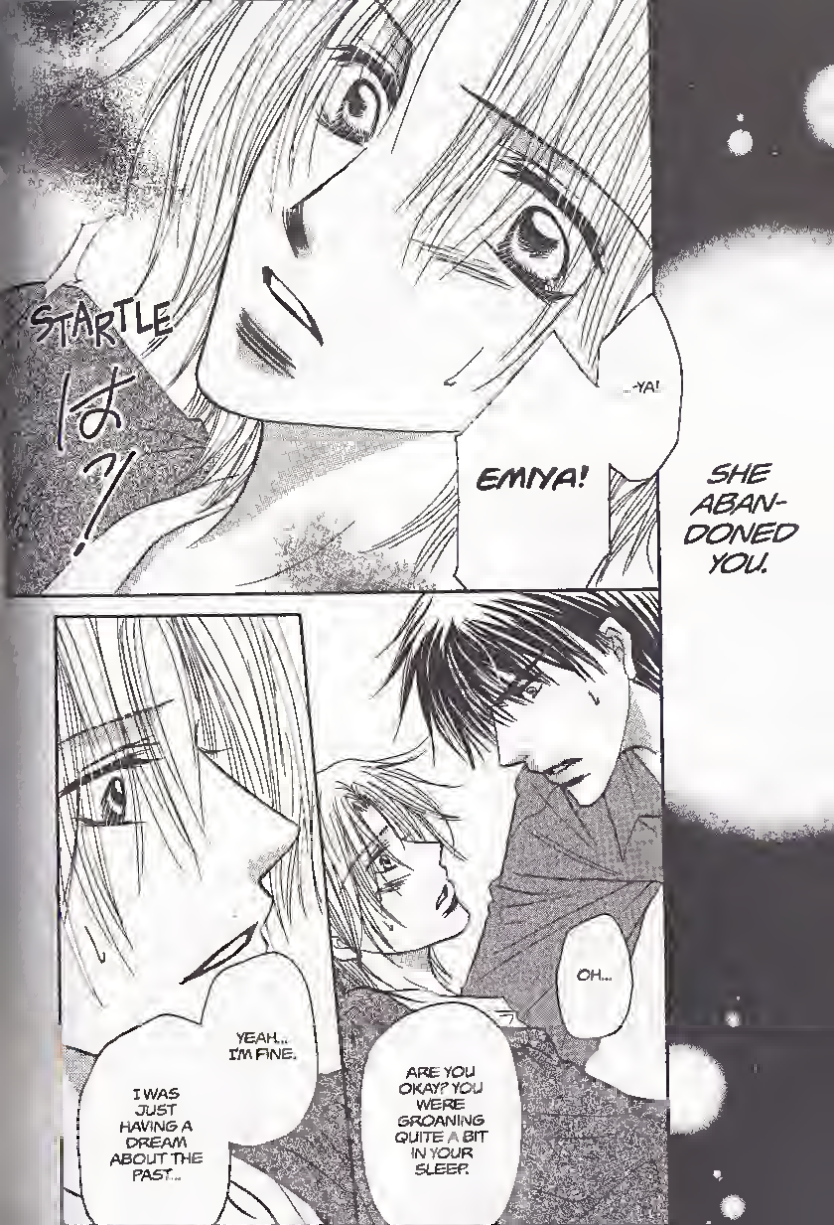
SIGH
TO HAVE MY HAND BITTEN BY MY OWN DOG. HOW PATHETIC.
I MANAGED TO GET AWAY WITH THE RELATIVELY LIGHT PUNISHMENTS OF HOME CONFINEMENT AND MY WAGES CUT..
..BUT WHAT A SORRY STATE OF AFFAIRS FOR ONE LIKE ME, WHO HAS WALKED THE ELITE PATH FOR SO LONG..
DING DONG
BY NOW..
..EMIYA IS PROBABLY..
KCHAK
WHO IS IT.
..AT THIS HOUR..?
!

APPEAR
HH
MR. HAMURO ...!
WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING HERE...?
WE ARE AWARE OF THE HARDSHIPS YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH RECENTLY!
WE HOPE YOU WILL FORGIVE OUR IMPUDENCE,
BUT WE HAVE SET UP A GROUP TO AID AND SUPPORT YOU, MR. HAMURO! IF YOU HAVE ANY WISHES, YOU ONLY HAVE TO ASK US...
WHA-..
WE WILL NOT ABANDON YOU! PLEASE DON'T LOSE HEART, MR. HAMURO!
MR. HAMURO..!

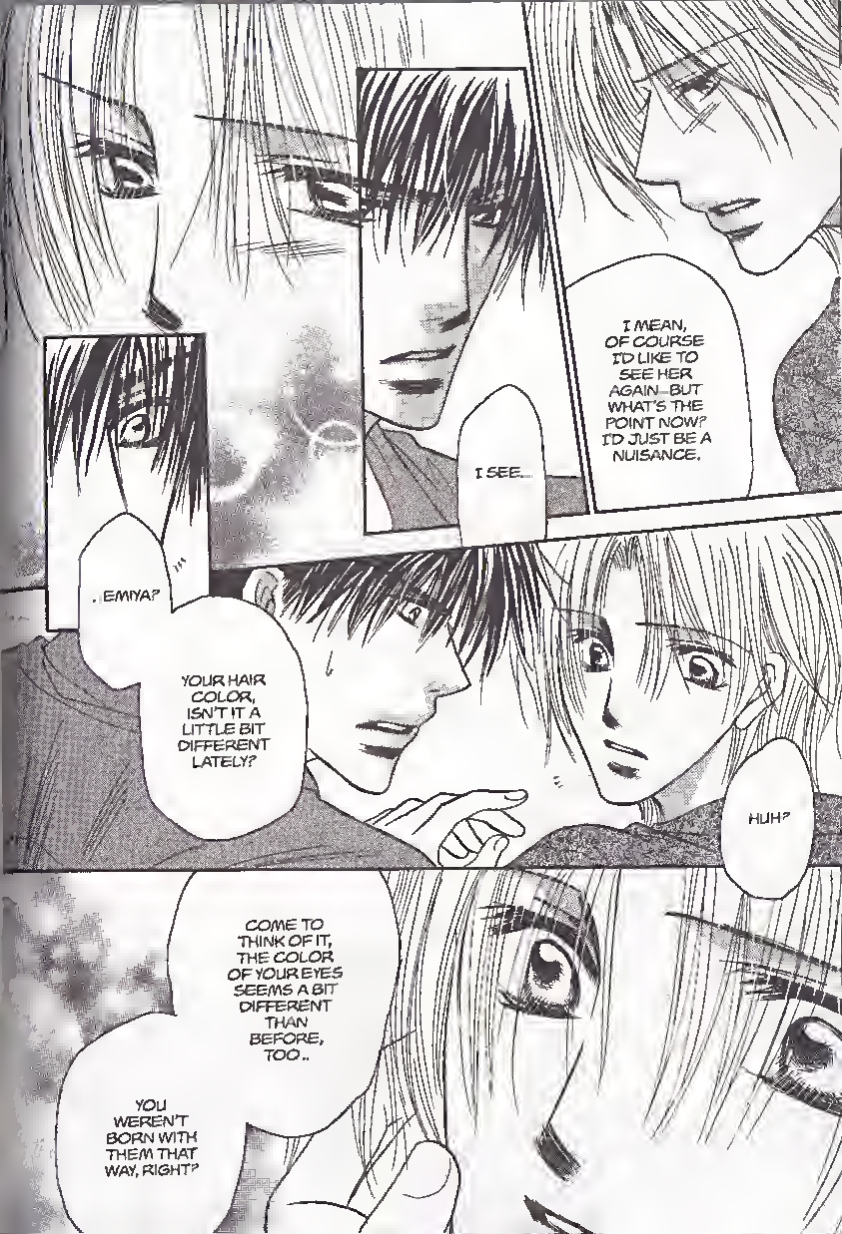
CLAK
...UM_?
MR. HAMURO..?
YOU GUYS..
SORRY_I MUST HAVE GOTTEN SOME DUST IN MY EYE..
ADORE
きゅん
MR. HAMURO..

HEY, HEY, EMIYA!
ABOUT THE NEXT RACE, WHICH HORSE DOES YOUR INSTINCT TELL YOU WILL WIN?!
FWAP
DO SOME WORK!
I'M STUDYING RIGHT NOW!
...
YOU ARE DEPENDING ON ME AFTER ALL...
HMPH
I'M NEVER TELLING YOU!
DON'T BE THAT WAY!
C'MON, JUST THIS ONCE! PLEASE?
NO WAY!
EMI-YAAA...!

~Resolve~
...THE RUMORS ARE SPREADING AMONG THE NEIGHBORS, TOO...
WE JUST CAN'T HANDLE HIM OURSELVES ANYMORE...
PERHAPS IT'S TIME WE PUT HIM IN AN INSTITUTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN...
AUNTIE... AM I GOING TO BE TAKEN AWAY TO SOME PLACE...?
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT...?!
YOU REALLY ARE SUCH A CREEPY CHILD!
MY MOMMY! WHERE'S MY MOMMY?
DON'T YOU EVER MENTION THAT FILTHY WOMAN AGAIN!


STARTLE
はっ!
-YA!
EMIYA!
SHE ABAN-DONED YOU.
OH...
ARE YOU OKAY? YOU WERE GROANING QUITE A BIT IN YOUR SLEEP.
YEAH... I'M FINE.
I WAS JUST HAVING A DREAM ABOUT THE PAST...

WERE YOU DREAMING ABOUT YOUR MOTHER...?
OH..
I SEE..
BUT THAT'S ONLY WHAT YOUR RELATIVES TOLD YOU, RIGHT? YOU DON'T KNOW IF IT'S REALLY TRUE.
YEAH...
IF YOU WANT TO SEE HER, I'LL FIND HER FOR YOU.
THAT'S—!


I MEAN, OF COURSE I'D LIKE TO SEE HER AGAIN—BUT WHAT'S THE POINT NOW? I'D JUST BE A NUISANCE.
I SEE...
EMIYA?
YOUR HAIR COLOR, ISN'T IT A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT LATELY?
HUH?
COME TO THINK OF IT, THE COLOR OF YOUR EYES SEEMS A BIT DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE, TOO..
YOU WEREN'T BORN WITH THEM THAT WAY, RIGHT?

WELL... EVER SINCE THE DAY I WOKE UP TO MY POWERS, MY COLORING JUST SEEMED TO NATURALLY GROW LIGHTER AND LIGHTER.
BUT NOW THAT THOSE POWERS ARE GONE, MAYBE MY BODY'S RETURNING TO NORMAL.
I SEE...
LET'S DROP THIS SUBJECT. YOU CONTINUE WORKING, KEIGO.
I'LL GO DO SOME GROCERY SHOPPING.
THUNK
...
STEP
SIGH
OH, OKAY..

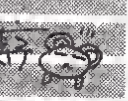
I WONDER WHY I HAD SUCH A DREAM...
A PAST I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER...
I WONDER IF SOME THINGS ARE JUST BEST...
...VERSUS THE TRUTH I WANT TO KNOW...
LEFT UNKNOWN...
...KEIGO?
WHAT'S THIS?
JUST TAKE A LOOK.
FLAP
KEIGO...
THIS IS..

I FELT BAD FOR GOING BEHIND YOUR BACK..
..BUT I'VE BEEN DOING SOME DIGGING ABOUT YOUR MOTHER.
EMIYA AT 10 MONTHS OLD
UNFORTUNATELY, SHE PASSED AWAY ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO, BUT HER YOUNGER SISTER SAID TO GIVE YOU THIS.
I WAS TOLD THAT YOUR MOTHER WANTED TO SEE YOU, TOO, BUT SHE HAD NO IDEA WHERE YOU WERE...
..AND THAT YOU WERE ALWAYS ON HER MIND. SHE NEVER FORGOT YOU FOR AN INSTANT.
THIS.. IS MY MOTHER ...?

ぽん
PAT
I'M HAPPY FOR YOU.
SEE? YOU HAD SOMEBODY WHO WAS CONSTANTLY THINKING OF YOU.
..!
YEAH ..
DEAR EMIYA...
NO MATTER WHAT HARDSHIPS YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN LIFE, THAT YOU WILL REMAIN UNBOWED AND ALWAYS SMILING FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART...
IT IS WITH THIS HOPE THAT I NAMED YOU EMIYA.
"EMIYA" CONTAINS THE KANJI LETTERING FOR "SMILE" AND "OTHER" SO HIS NAME MEANS SOMETHING LIKE SMILES AT OTHERS"
I HOPE YOU WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER TO KEEP BEAMING THAT SMILE OF YOURS...
...FOR THE SAKE OF THAT SPECIAL PERSON IN YOUR LIFE.
~Resolve~ *END

HELLO! THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR BUYING THIS MANGA OF MINE! ♥ THE STORY IS A BIT DARK THIS TIME AROUND (ACTUALLY IT WAS ORIGINALLY SUPPOSED TO BE EVEN DARKER LOL) BUT IT'S ONE I'VE WANTED TO TELL FOR A LONG TIME SO I AM VERY VERY GRATEFUL TO EVERYONE AT DARIA PUBLISHING FOR GIVING ME THIS CHANCE TO WRITE IT! PERSONALLY I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO DO A STORY SHOWING KEIGO'S PAST AS WELL BUT... (LAUGH)

WELL I SINCERELY HOPE WE MEET AGAIN SOMEWHERE SOMEDAY! ♥ THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!



Special Thx! ... Mars.M / Sayoko.T